HISTORICAL

COVERS

TRES PIEDRAS, TAOS CO.NEW MEX.JUL 8 1884.

Type I postmark and earliest use by Dike.

TAOS,NEW MEX. Aug 25 1887

Type I post-mark.

RANCHES OF TAOS N,MEX.JUL 2 1890.

Type IV postmark.

TAOS COUNTY,NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

The three post offices listed above are all located in **TAOS COUNTY**.Of special note is the COUNTY POSTMARK of TRES PIEDRAS as being the Type I postmark of that post office. From 1820 to about 1850,the village of Taos was the wintering hadquarters for the fur trappers in the southern Rockies. It was at Taos, on Tuesday morning,Jan.19,1847,that the Pueblo Indians and Mexicans began a bloody revolt against the Americans,in which Gov.Charles bent was murdered. SEE ARMY OF THE WEST MASSACRE OF GOV.BENT in this collection.

Lawrenceville Ills. Jany. 1st 1848

Dear Father

I have thus long delayed to write hoping to be able to send you some money, but at length not being able feel it incumbent on me to write anyhow - should have done so before but for the fact that I have no doubt you have heard from me indirectly thro, Newton & Jane.

I have been traveling about for the last two months & shelter & occasionally lecturing, but the weather has been very bad so that there has not been much chance to do anything. My health is good & I have some thoughts of commencing the practice again in a county adjoining to this being very strongly urged to it by an old class mate in this place with whom I am stoping & who promises to do all he can for me. We are now entering upon a new year & I hope it may be a more prosperous & happy one to us than the last. I cannot now tell where you may write to me but hope to soon when I will again write. Yr Off Son

E. B. Bateman

Lawrenceville Ills
Jany 4th 1848

5

Burgin Bateman Esqr
Jacksonville
200 Illinois

St Louis April 22nd 1848.

My Dear Father

I am sorry I have not been able to hear from you for so long a time, I have written twice since I have rec- any answer.
I now belong to the Army of the U.S. and start to day for Mexico where I expect to be attached to the Medical Department of the Army when arrived in that country, our destination is Chiwawa. We go from here to Fort Leavenworth by water - thence across the Plains through Santa Fee &c with the Troops, about 700 strong.

I am actuated in this movement by sincere desire to secure means by which I may at last show my mindfulness of my obligations to you - which I can never cancel; but which I wish to acknowledge by my exertions to do what I can to assist you. and under all the circumstances this seems to be the best chance now offered. Relying upon the same Almighty power which has hitherto sustained me, for future defence and support I go; and ask of Him who holds the destinies of all in his hands to be with & sustain us both & of you a remembrance in all your prayers at the throne of grace.
I hoped to write again to Susan & Ruth - although they both have long been in my debt / but time will not permit.

It is thought there is a strong probability that ~~we will~~ ~~now~~ counter orders may be rec'd before we leave the fort on account of the approval of the Treaty - & we disbanded there - in that case I may not be absent long - but otherwise ~~we~~ it is not anticipated we will return before the next spring. I wish very much to see you before leaving the Fort, where we expect to remain only about ~~7~~ 8 days which will afford time if you write without any delay ~~& not~~ but not otherwise. My directions are as follows,

Viz.

Dr. E. B. Bateman
Infantry Battalion
Missouri Volunteers
Fort Leavenworth

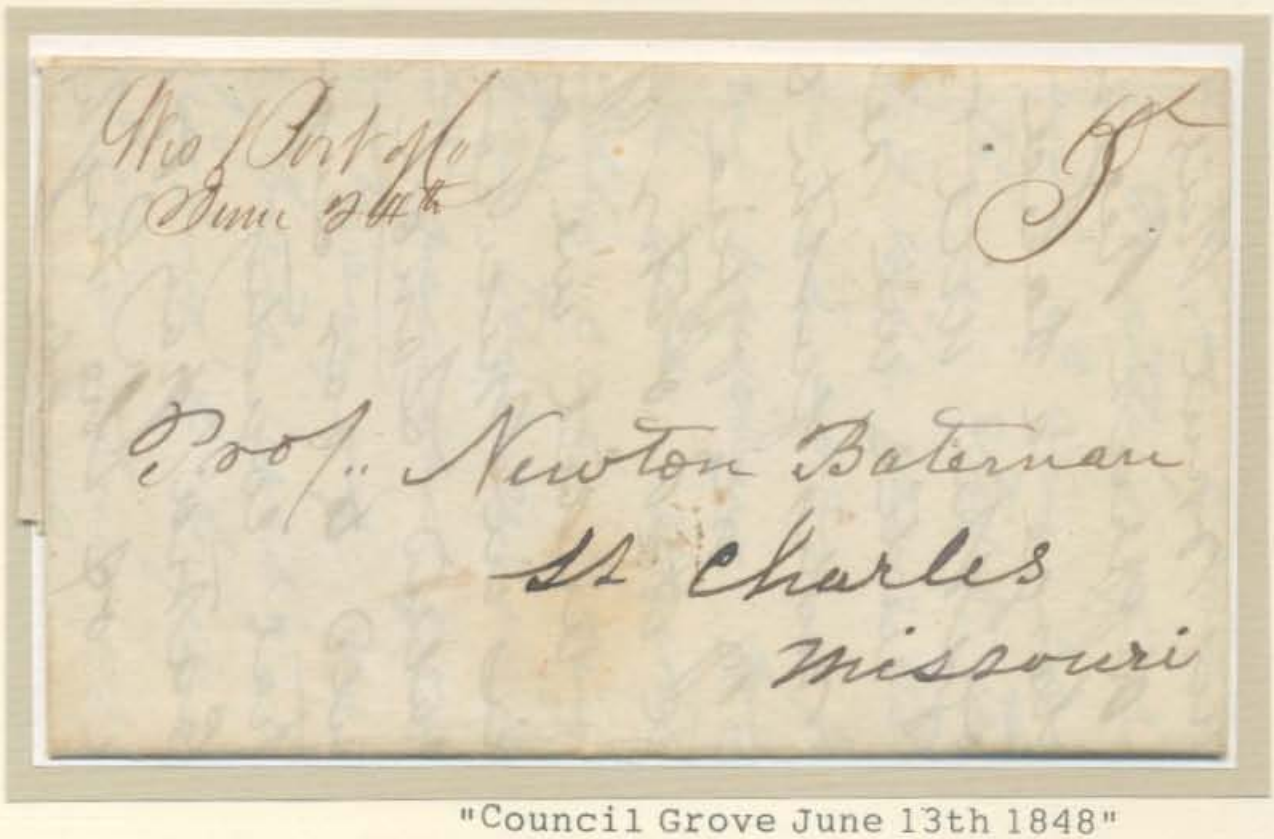
THE WESTERN MAILS

ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL

COUNCIL GROVE,K.T. Located in MORIS COUNTY on the SANTA FE TRAIL. Post Office was established on February 26,1855 while in Wise County.It was the site of a council with the Osage Indians in August 1825,to secure treaty rights for freighters through the Indian country to Santa Fe. In 1827,Kit Carson cut the name "Council Grove" on a buffalo hide and nailed it to the Charter Oak,under which the treaty was signed.Thus the name it bears today. There was also a tree called the Post Office Oak, which had a cache at its base where letters could be left to be picked up by parties going "that way". For years it was the last place where supplies could be obtained before Santa Fe. In 1857 there was a store called "Last Chance",which still stands today.

Cover above bearing a three cent of the 1851 issue was used on postmarked "Council Grove K.T.Dec 15" no year date but 1855 or later.Cover below used in the 1870 period.

COUNCIL GROVE ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL June 13th 1848.
Letter carried back to the Missouri River by Military Express or a returning supply train and placed in the mails as per postmark at **"West Port Mo/ June 24th"** and rated **"5"** cents collect.



"Council Grove June 13th 1848"

"Dear Brother I snatch afew moments from other urgent duties in order to inform you again of my whereabouts. We moved from the Ft [Leavenworth] on the 20th ult,& arrived as above on the 1st inst - distance 150 miles - The country we have traversed is beautiful in the extreme,but not sufficiently timbered for purposes of general agriculture & improvements. We have passed through the "Stockbridge,Delaware,Shawanee & are now among the Kansas tribe of Indians, wh[ich] last gave their Big - "War dance" afew days since, & such a sight as mortals could never conceive of much less believe,except it could be seen - I will not attempt a description but if ever Providence permits us to meet again of this & many other things I will give you a full acct. We have lain at this place Eleven days & take up the line of march tomorrow. The weather has been cool & pleasant most of the time - the climate very salubriaus - I am in good health & more fleshy then when I left home. I was disappointed in not hearing from you a second time before leaving the fort,but hope your letter my reach me soon. Matters of business omited in my last I am compelled for want of more time still to omit,but am anxious to & will put them in your possession as soon as possible I feel very anxious to hear from you & hope you will write as often as you possibly can (my letters come free) _ Ere this reaches its destination the thought occurs,you may be a married man, if so I wish you & yours the full realization of all your fondest hopes & brghtest anticipations - Me thinks I can almost see & love her now & I can love her who loves my brother & forever, & in such event will feel that I have not lost a brother,but gained a sister/ You will be pleased to learn that I have an appointment. I was appointed Assistent Surgeon on the 5th inst of Detachments on one Battallion & two Regiments - Some 300 or 400 men at present,but wh[ich] ,when other Detachments now on the march join us will probbilly amt to several hundred more.There is about Nine hundred Troops moving to Mexico on this route this spring,all recruits for diffrnt Regiments & Battalions, how large a band of us will finally be together will not probally be determined until we reach Fort Man,250 miles further on. The tenure of my office is in common with all the officers except one or two (until we join our respective bodies in Mexico), we are what are called Lanch Officers , subject to yield to our superiours in office in that country & whether we get any extra pay or not is in the descretion of the high functionaries of Government in that country,but expect it [for myself I intend to have it. The duties are not very arduous at present having but about 15 patients to attend daily.I ride in the shade & of course have nothing to do with any other duties than those oppertaining to my calling - I have no time to add more,write as often as you can - every time you can snatch five spare minites - for it costd nothing & you cannot concieve how cheering it would be to hear from you often, - I get no news of any kind neither can get any. Your aff Bro.forever E.B.Bateman

THE WESTERN MAILS

Plains, -- Council Grove,
One hundred & fifty Miles
from Ft Leavenworth June 13th /48

Bateman writes to is father that he left Fort Leavenworth the 20th of May. That he has been "appointed 'Assistent Surgeon' to Detatchments of one Battalion & two Regiments in all numbering about 300 men....It is 650 miles from here to Santa Fe ...This has been a pleasant encampment, good water & bathing, plenty of fine Mulbereies & Strawberries & surrounded by Indians (Kansas) whose character I have had a good opportunity of studdying. They gave thir 'war dance' afew days since at which there was a large assembly....we have divers verbal rumors about peace & war, but nothing to be depended on. The general impression with our officers is that Mexico will reject the Treaty - about 75 miles will bring us to the borders of the Comanches & about 50 within the limits of other hostile Tribes - most of the men appear eager for a brush [with the Indians] but the officers say there is little probabilty of having any short of Mexico."

Letter placed in the Post Office as per postmark at **Westport Mo June 22 1848.**

Dr. E. B. Bateman
Col. Easton's Command
1st Infantry Battalion
Missouri Volunteirs. U.S.A.
Santa Fee
New Mexico

Plains - Council Grove,
One hundred & fifty miles
from Ft. Leavenworth june 13th/48

Dear Father.

My letter from Ft Leavenworth you have no doubt received before this. I intend to have written to you again before now but have had no possible chance. We left the Fort on the 20th of May & arrived as above on the first of this month having been out twelve days & as you perceive averaged but little more than twelve miles per day. The country between here & fort is without exception the most beautiful I have ever seen ~~in~~ but timber is scarce we generally had plenty of water of good quality the weather has been cool & pleasant with the exception of afew days, the nights are very cool the atmosphere is the most pure & healthy I have ever breathed. I am in good health & more fleshy than when I left the States, but there has been much sickness among the Troops, oweing in a great measure however to thier imprudence - no deaths have yet occured You will be pleased to learn that I have recd. an appointment . I was appointed "Assistent Surgeon" to Detachments of one Battalion & two Regiments in all numbering about 300 men, (with the probability when other Troops shall join us of the number being nearly doubled) on the 5th of this the appointment only holds in common with all the officers (except one) until such time as we may join our respective commands in Mexico - as Lanch Officers. My duties at present are not hard having only about fifteen Patients to attend to daily. I of course have no other duties to perform except those connected with my profession & ride ~~all~~ in the shade all the time I choose. Oweing to the peculiar tenure by which "Lanch Officers" hold, it ~~depends~~ is in the discretion of the high functionaries of Goverment ~~whether~~ whether they get extra pay or not - tho we expect it, at least I do. We shall leave here tomorrow having remained 11 days; & I leave this letter here to be sent by the first opportunity. It is 650 miles from here to Santa Fee & must include both the hot & dry season.

Fort Man. Indian Territory
halfway to Santa Fee July 2nd 1848

"Fort Man. Indian Territory
half way to Santa Fee July 2nd 1848"

Dear Father We arrived at this place on yesterday after a toilsome march of 400 miles from fort Leavenworth. The weather most of the time has been cool & pleasant with occasionally a refreshing Shower. This is situated upon the Arkansas River a beautiful stream which has its rise in the mountains & which is truly refreshing to the weary traveller. Not much of importance has occured on our journey there has been considerable sickness but no deaths - An advance company had an engagement with some Comanche Indians afew days since which resulted in killing several of the Red-skins without loss on our side - the particular division to which I belong was some distance behind & I was with them in charge of the Hospital Wagons which place my duties require me to occupy. We have a report in camp that peace is made, but have recd. no counter orders & after a day or two's rest will resume our march - the probability is in any case that we will go on as far as Santa Fee tho we may not. I was much disappointed in not getting a letter from you & others by the rear division of our Troops which left Ft Leavenworth about 10th of June & which overtook us two days ago. So that I have never recd. but one (your first letter) - The entire force & trains are now all here (with the exception of one small company & its train) & looks large, about 400 wagons & near 1000 men in all including Teamsters - We have plenty of Buffalo meat - of which there are countless numbers upon the plains - Also Elk - Antalope & Hare [Rabbits ?] - **I believe that if I have seen one Buffalo I seen one hundred thousand at one view.** My health has materially imporved & is now good. I must close here for my duties are arduous & leave me very little time for anything else. I write as usual upon my Knee in Tent siting up[on] a Knapsack. I sincerly hope this may find you enjoing health & the other blessings of life that you may be preserved in peace & safety by a kind Providence & are permited again to meet at no distant period - Please give kindest regards to sisters Brothers & frinds & write to me soon./Your ever aff. son/ E. B. Bateman

"I wrote to you at Council Grove/
Direct to / E,B,Bateman M D /Missouri Infantry Volunteers /Coln. Eastons Battalion/Santa Fee New Mexico"

Wagon Mound 1 2/4 0 miles from
Santa Fee July 23rd 1848.

"My Dear Brother I sieze a few passing moments, as we have just met a Train for the States, again to inform you of my where abouts - we are still on the great plains Slowly wending our way to the point of our destination - have been among the mountains several days & enjoy a delightful cool atmosphere, nights very cool - we cross a branch of the Rocky Mountains runing down into Texas, in which State we have been traveling since we left the Semirone [Cimarron River] but are now within 25 miles of the Mexican line & 40 miles from the first & most northern Spanish settlement called "Bagus" [Las Vegas ?] - our march has been tedious & toilsome in the extreme, the weather unusualy dry insomuch that the mules & oxen have greatly sopherd [suffered] for forage & water & many of the latter perished - occasionally the men have also suffered but more for lack of quality then Quantity as it has often been so highly impregnate with mineral & Earthy solutions as to be positively Medicinal, we have however lost but one man who died of "Congestive Fever" & will be burried at this place to day. This is a beautiful romantic place 120 miles from Santa Fee in a mountain pass & the finest springs I have ever seen. We have had very little fuel for the lastfive weeks but Buffalo Excrement [dried Buffalo chips] but now we begin to come to little groves of Pine & cedar - last night the men cooked supper with real old fashioned Pine wood [I can almost smell the aroma as I type this; Editor]. We heard of the ratification of the Treaty of Peace at Fort Man but had not there nor have we yet any counter orders wh[ich] must come to us through the commander of our battalion who from last accounts was in Chiwawa [Chihuahua, Mexico] - we will go to Santa Fee at least & there probably either be dischd. or marched to fort Leavenworth - nearly all the men wish dischd. there & I would much prefer it myself. I have not heard a word from you nor any one else since leaving the fort but recd. (very thankfully) the Paper [newspaper] sent -at Ft Man, it passd round camp & was read with great egerness - please send me others & write me at Santa Fee. I intend to write father by the same convegance but will not have time.....Shall not pobably write again to you before I reach Santafee.... E. B. Bateman

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As stated in the letter, it was carried by a returning wagon train and placed in the mails at INDEPENDENCE MO AUG 19 [1848] At St. CHARLES MO. AUG 26 it was forwarded as per postmark to Jacksonville, Ill and rerated 10 cents - 5 plus 5. WAGON MOUND is one of the historic land marks on the Santa Fe Trail. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was ratified by the Mexican Congress May 25, 1848. Vera Cruz was returned to Mexican control on June 11, 1848.

Mailed at Santa Fe
"Aug. 11, 1848"

STEAM 10

Prof. Newton Bateman
St. Charles
Missouri U.S.

Fort Leavenworth
May 18th 1848

Dear Brother

I forgot in my last to give any further directions in regard to my address but presume you will have replied to the address already given ere this reaches you, — I wish now to continue a statement of my business matters &c. in that begun for it is proper in any case I should leave such a statement & there is no one but yourself to whom I would be willing to entrust it! In regard to them all you can exercise your pleasure, except otherwise especially requested.

The Telegraph & other Electric & Philosophic Apparatus I mentioned to you in a letter last winter, as having purchased jointly with D. M. Lyons. of Ills. & E. C. Banks of Lawrenceville Ills. & to whom we gave our joint note at three mos. (tho. he said he would not be urgent) I left in the Hotel of & in the charge of Daniel Anderson, Edwardsville Ills. ~~together~~ (it is in a Box-trunk & ready for transport) together with another common store box port full of other apparatus, in all worth about 80 $. I kept them in pledge for a balance of about 12 $ due on about Seven weeks board. Banks's note is for 65 $ I shall write to him & simply inform him that I have placed all my business in your hands.

O. E. RISVOLD AND SONS
WHOLESALE
INFANTS WEAR-NOTIONS
6417 LYNDALE AVE. SO.
MINNEAPOLIS 23, MINN.
. . . Phone: UN 6-8728 . . .
. . . Phone: UN 6-8729 . . .

THE BATEMAN STORY

Santa Fee N.Mexico
Aug. 26th 1848

Dear Brother Newton.

I sieze afew moments at ten oclock this evening to write afew lines as opportunity offers to send it to the States , & perhaps directly to you by a gentleman who leaves in the morning. Our Battalion arrived from below about a week since together with other troops. Detatchments of wh(ich), howerver ~~I understand~~ have been arriving every few days for about two weeks & I understand all are now up from that region & the last of wh(ich) took their departure for the states afew days since leaving but about 150 men (Draggoons) to garrison this place, a number far too small, it is expected however that Coln Washington (the Governor appointed) will bring with him some three coms. of regulars - meantime, & without delay an effert will be made to emboddy some coms. of citizen soldiers with a view to our mutual protection & safety, as rumors of a contemplated revolution are already rife in the city causing some tofeel ill at ease & others perhaps to leave - it cannot be denied that ill feeling has been engenderd in the heart of some Mexicans, but with few exceptions I believe it is oweing to the wanton abuse of the american soldiers, otherwise the mass are unquestionably satisfied with thier present situation, for all know & admit the war has been money in their Pockets, even to the very making of many. About 40 of our Detacht. took thier discharges here, some to remain & others to go home on their own hook; the remainder aretobe disbanded at Independenc I recd. mine on the 23rd inst, have taken an office & commenced the Practice of Med - with fair prospects of doing well; I deliberated much before formin this conclusion but finally concluded I was ought tobe better paid for the trouble & labor of the campagine than I have yet been, (as I recd no extra pay) & believe by judicious managment it can be made to come in course of no great while. The fact is, this is a great field, comparatively unocupied, al professional men & mechanics by good management can do well, there are sever 1 Lawyer some of wh(ich), are young & green, but all are making money, but the field most ample of all & the one to wh(ich) I have --- an eye in reffer ence to future is matrimony - any genteel well behaved man, possessing common sence can mary rich, if he is mind to take one of castellian blood & I must say those who are unmarried are equaly as fair & generaly much sopirior in feature & form to the of (Americano's) I could mary almo any day one withe five Thousand in gold & silver, but she has one child & besides I can do better, for I have one in view, a days ride distant wh(ich) I am going to see at liesure who has twentyfive thousand ready money. A Dr. left here for the states afew days since who had recently arrived from Chiwawa where he went as assistant surgeon about a year since - bringing wit him a beautiful wife & 60 Thousand in speice besides a large real estatelef in that place, & he is not extraordinarily smart either.

The last letter I recd. from you & by wh(ich) I learn you have not rec several of mine, is dated July 7th & reached me on the 19th inst, 42 days Also recd one from father same day dated June 19th Sixty days out. I was greatly pained to hear the death of my Neice, I felt much attached to her & her loss will be long & deeply felt by me, Also that you are in trouble abo matramonial matters, but it was too aggravating not to tell what it is, when you know how anxious I am to hear enything concerning; but now that those ti are broken, I would suggest, ~~the~~ I do not wish to urge) that you come put her

either of Love, Matrimony, or Politics, for my-
self I do not contemplate returning until
I have given it a fair trial, but this you
need not name to father - & the other
secrets of course you will not divulge

The letter from Miss Mattie & Sister very
mellifluous are & there is a jumble of Mr Mills
of the place with his in Atlanta in other words & all
have distinctly left again, a chance & toward letter
of you hereafter then I can tell him. Ehh

Prof. Newton Batman
St Charles
Missouri

INDEPENDENCE
JAN 1
MO

Mr Cutter
to State

are others, - I think the
Big Bethany it is otherwise
& for service time
of rear wagon at some
Pay etc etc. Goods
Mr Martin G. W. Batman

& some other things
I'll crossing the
is quite cold
thought I see
paper, come in
Please write
write soon.

altho the adjacent country is poor & barren, ~~yet~~ & even
the Town looks (queer) yet there is a something ~~that~~
that strongly binds one here - as for money I never
saw so much in my life & nothing but gold & silver
all kinds of fees ~~are about~~ & ~~for~~ most provisions are
are about ten times as high as in the state, but clothing

10

INDEPENDENCE
SEP 8
MO

Burgin Bateman Esqr.
Jacksonville
Morgan Co.
Illinois

Urbanity
Mr Cutter
to State

1848

50.52

Santa Fee N.Mexico
Aug. 26th 1848

Dear Brother Newton,

I sieze afew momenits at ten oclock this evening to write afew lines as opportunity offers to send it to the States, & perhaps directly to you by a gentleman who leaves in the morning. Our Battalion arrived from below about a week since together with other troops. Detatchments of wh (ich), however ~~I understand~~ have been arriving every few days for amout two weeks & I understand all are now up from that region & the last of wh (ich) took their departure for the states afew days since leaving but about 150 men (Draggoons) to garrison this place, a number far too small, it is expected however that Coln Washington (the Governor appointed) will bring with him some three coms. of regulars - meantime, & without delay, an effert will be made to emboddy some coms. of citizen soldiers with a view to our mutual protection & safety, as rumors of a contemplated revolution are already rife in the city causing some tofeel ill at ease & others perhaps to leave - it cannot be denied that ill feeling has been engenderd in the heart of some Mexicans, but with few exceptions I believe it is oweing to the wanton abuse of the american soldiers, otherwise the mass are unquestionably satisfied with thier present situation, for all know & admit the war has been money in their Pockets, even to the very making of many. About 40 of our Detacht. took thier discharges here, some to remain & others to go home on their own hook: the remainder aretobe disbanded at Independence. I recd. mine on the 23rd inst, have taken an office & commenced the Practice of Med - with fair prospects of doing well; I deliberated much before forming this conclusion but finally concluded I was ought tobe better paid for the trouble & labor of the campagine than I have yet been, (as I recd no extra pay) & believe by judicious managment it can be made to come in course of no great while. The fact is, this is a great field, comparatively unocupied, all professional men & mechanics by good management can do well,

Shawnee Sept 6th 1848.

Dear Brother Newton.

A Mr Bullard leaves to day by whom I send this, he may get in before a, Mr James Finley, by whom also I have sent several letters, two of wh are to you on important business. My main object at this writing is to get some things sent out if possible this fall by Mr Finley. He has gone in to buy goods & left on the 30th ult, and expects to be be back with his goods by Nov. he has a large House at Independance, - his family live at Westport, & it is possible he may supply himself entirely at said establishment & not go to St Louis, as the season is late, but it is no ways probable, in any case however the letters will reach you in time for any arrangement you may wish to make with him either at St Louis or Independance, in case you wish to come out or can send my things.

What I wish is to have you send my best Dress Coat & Black Pants, Shirts & collars if there are any good, jewelry, consisting of a large Breast Pin & two or three Rings, all the manuscripts, or other Documents, you have not or would not upon examination, dispose of agreeable to the terms of

Other

Santa fee Sept 6th 1848.

Dear Brother Newton.

A Mr Bullard leaves to day bywhom I send this, he may get in before a, Mr James Finley, by whom also I have sent several letters, two of wh are to you on important business. My main object at this writing is to get some things sent out if possible this fall by Mr Finley. he has gone in to buy goods (left on the 30th ult.) and expects to be back with his goods by Nov- he has a large House at Independance, - his family live at Westport, & it is possible he may supply himself entierly at said establishment - & not go to St Louis, as the season is late / but it is no ways probable, in any case however the letters will reach you in time for any arrangement you may wish to make with him either at St Louis or Independance in case you wish to come out or can send my things.

What I wish is ~~to~~ to have you send my best Dress Coat & Black Pants, Shirts & collars if these are any good, jewelry, consisting of a large Breast Pin & two or three rings, all the manuscripts or other Documents you have not or would not upon examination, dispose of agreeable to the terms of a all Phrenological ~~p~~ papers (wh subject had I the blank charts) I might take up a leisure this winter & make a handsome sum.)

And if you can without too much trouble come at my Books & papers wh, are in Sisters hands as I suppose for so I I would like a least all the & Seientific Books & Papers sent, including the Botanical works complete, of my late wife. Also any papers of a Political or Extempare, character - Also two Anatonical Plated on Rollers & a Cranium, the latter belonged to Wiles of Troy, but I can send him one in place of it that he would like better. ~~Also-~~ If you should conclude to come (of wh, as yet I know nothing, having heard nothing from you later than your letter in reply to the one I wrote at Council Grove) in that case I would earnestly request that all/ my books &c of value be brought & that you supply yourself with works upon Nat. Phil chemistry Mineralogy &c as

Santafe. Saturday. Sept. 30th 1848.

Dear Brother Newton.

I am tired & out of patience waiting to hear from you, but I do not believe it is your fault. it is because we have no established Mails, no responsibility, no regularity no nothing reliable, as to time, in the way of geting news, but we indulge the hope that Congress will apply a remedy at its ensuing session — As yet I have heard nothing pone you as before stated — late than your letter, in reply to mine written at Council Grove. I fear that letters maybe detained in the frontier Post Offices on acct of non-payment of postage to the old line, for as yet in the absence of any regulations all letters (except to the Army) are treated as foreign & the postage required at the last office thro. wh. they pass.

Sunday Oct 1st 1848.

I expect this will leave on tomorrow & probably get across the Plains in about 20 days.

Santafee. Saturday. Sept, 30th, 1848.

Dear Brother Newton.

I am tired & out of patience waiting to hear from you but I donot believeit is your fault. it is because we have no established mails, no responsability, no regularity no nothing reliable, as to time, in the way of geting news, but we indulge the hope that Congress will apply a remedy at its ensueing scession - As yet I heard nothing from you as before stated - later than your letter, in reply to mine written at Council Grove. I fear that letters maybe detained in the frontier Post Offices on acct of non-payment of postage to the old line, for as yet in the absence of any regulations all letters (except to the army) are treated as foreign & the postage required at the last office thro wh, they pass.

Sunday Oct 1st 1848.

I expect this will leave on tomorrow & probably get across the Plains in about 20 days. I am at a loss what to write not having heard from for long a time nor anything at all upon the subject of my late letters-

The Dagurretype Opperation is one that could not fail to realise a fortune in a short time. if you think of that & in order to secure an adaquate knowledge of it should require until spring, perhaps it would be better to defer your departure until then.

I have attended a Protestant meeting to day & heard preaching the first I have heard for near six months & perhaps the first ever held in Santafee. it was however by a Camelite & one of feeble abilities, who I learn arrived from the States afew days since, what his objects or motives are I do not know, nor do I regard it as of much consequence. I have some idea of joining the Catholic ch, but shall not be in much hurry -

I have some notion of Marrying a young Spanish widow with about 15000 $ in cash but the trouble is she has got some two or three children.

Among other inducements I had for staying here was the expectation & which I still entertain that Congress will make liberal awards of Lands

Santa fee, Monday Morning

Oct 2nd 1848.

Dear Father,

I Gent leaves for the States this morning by whom I send a few hasty lines — I am in good health & feel encouraged in the prospect of doing well — before this reaches you, one will probably have arrived in your neighborhood who belonged to my Detachment, his name is Cornelius Deweese, a Son of Nimrod Deweese, who lives in the J. V. neighborhood. should you see him he could inform you of many things to tedious to write in a letter. Wheat was Harvested here about the first of September - much later than in the States, Corn is yet quite green, we have had no frost yet but the air begins to feel much like it.

Snow was visible on the mountains about the 22nd Ult. The climate is exceeding pleasant & salubrious, the greatest benefit has been derived by persons of weakly & consumptive habits in coming to this country.— I have not heard a word from any of you ~~since~~ later, than a reply to a letter I wrote at Council Grove more than three months ago, I feel very anxious to hear from you all,

St Louis April 22nd 1848

My Dear Father

I am sorry I have not been able to hear from you for so long a time. I have written twice since I have recd-any answer. I now belong to the Army of the U.S. and start to day for Mexico where I expect to be attached to the Medical Department of the Army when arrived in that country, our destination is Chiwawa. We go from here to Fort Leavenworth by water - thence across the Plains through Santa Fee &c with the Troops, about 700 strong.

I am actuated in this movement by sincere desire to secure means by which I may at least show my mindfulness of my obligations to you - which I can never cancel; but which I wish to acknowledge by my exertions to do what I can to assist you, and under all the circumstances this seems to be the best chance now offered. Relying upon the same Almighty power which has hitherto sustained me, for future defence and support I go; and ask of Him who holds the destinies of all in his hands to be with & sustain us both & of you a remembrance in all your prayers at the throne of grace.

I hoped to write again to Susan & Ruth - allthough they both have long been in my debt, but time will not permit.

It is thought there is a strong probobility that counter orders may be recd - before we leave the fort on account of the approval of the Treaty - & be disbanded there - but otherwise it is not anticipated we will return before the next spring. I wish very much to hear from you before leaving the Fort, where we expect to remain only about 8 days which will afford time if you write without any delay but not otherwise. My directions are as follows,

Viz.

Dr. E.B.Bateman
Infantry Battalion
Missouri Volunteers
Fort Leavenworth

Santafee. New Mexico
Oct. 16th 1848.

Dear Father.

It hardly seems worth-while to write more, for it seems as if I was never to hear from you again; not having had a word from you since the letter I recd at Ft Leavenworth & indeed nothing from any of you except a short letter from Newton soon after my arrival — Notwithstanding I have written many times to you both. — I fear since the war is closed, letters directed to me may be stopped for the want of pre-payment of Postage to the Original Boundaries of the States, — Congress not having got established a regular mail line to this country. Letters destined to this place would be treated as those bound to a foreign country in this respect.

I have inexpressible anxiety to hear from you once more but must abide the issue of this state of things with as much patience as I can.

My health continues good & I sincerely hope & pray that Kind Providence has favored you

write the same precious [illegible].

I am getting a moderate practice & hope with continued health & assiduity to business to be able to make some money by spring.

Our rainy season has just closed which lasted about four weeks. we had no frost until about the 12th inst.

Butterworth Esqr
Sulphurville
Morgan County
Illinois

October

Santafe March 15th 1849.

Dear Brother Newton.

Since last I wrote nothing of much interest has transpired in these ends of the earth. The weather is cold here & we have had a long cold winter, but are not much troubled with mud as you are in Mo.

This is the dullest time of the year for our city & at present extremely dull, the American population are more sparse than at any other time, many having gone to the States & others south on business. I had hoped to have had some money ere this to have sent you & father lot on account of a Speculation into wh I entered some three months since, involving about 1500$, & wh appears likely to result unfavorably, I am at present in straitened circumstances & disappointed in that hope,

My present calculation is to start in course of a month for California, with a company of citizens now raising for that purpose: If I do go I will be as 'Surgeon' to the Company; its chief object I understand to be the exploration of the country & to locate a Colony; it is an enterprise solely

of the citizens & will be in no way connected with the Military Establishment.

Would it not be well for you to acquaint yourself with the Spanish Language as you may wish some day to visit this country — I have made some progress so that in common intercourse can get along tolerably well. Please remember me to Father & Sister when you write them, & accept for yourself a brothers enduring Love

E. B. Bateman

Lt. E. B. Bateman
Mr. Bellardy
Mexico

35

Jacksonville Dec 23rd 49.

My own precious Newton.

I wonder if you can imagine your Sarah's joy to night on receiving another precious letter from you - it did really seem to me that I never should hear from you again - more than one week had passed - and then you were so sick and so despirited it of course made me feel very badly and the time that has intervened seemed very long, uncommonly long. the hours to me have been dark and dreary. I have hoped for the best while I still feared to hope but O I feel so much relieved to night - it is to me good news indeed I feel as though I could do anything and bear anything almost if you are but well and happy. I shall entire upon my duties to morrow with a lighter heart

There has been no school to day, how I would love to have come and spent the day with you. How have you been employed dearest? I suppose in trying to get well have you not? That surprise of which you spoke Newton would have been very acceptable and exceedingly agreeable to me - and to me it would have been a very great surprise for you had not intimated your intention to me.

I spent Christmas Eve & Christmas at home quietly but pleasantly. I was urged much to go to the sale last night but I did not wish to, I felt that with my present feeling I should not enjoy myself, being placed in large and lively company only tends to make me feel more keenly our loss - I felt that it was not best or right to go.

It was held at Mr Stevenson's - many were there - most of the teachers - Miss Princess Kimball was out. intruding fact I will tell you where I should have engaged myself last night? right by my Newton's side - administering to his comfort and enjoying his society. O, Newton my heart is so full I feel as though I wanted to press you to my

JACKSONVILLE
DEC
28
ILL.

5

Mr Newton Bateman
St. Charles
Missouri

150

Stockton Feby. 14th /52.

Dear Brother Newton.

I have mailed you a very long letter this day, also some Papers; at the same time got your letter from S.V. but did not open it until I returned home, it was then too late ~~to~~ to get them out & re-direct them, so they stand addressed to "St Charles, as" formerly, and as they contain matters I am anxious to lay before you at an early day I have thought the best & speediest way to remedy the mistake would be to write you direct to S.V. advising you of the facts so that you may write to the P.M. or some friend in St Charles & cause them to be forwarded you immediately — I send this by the Express, wh. will probably reach you as soon, or Perhaps two or three days sooner than they will reach St Charles.

We were very happy to hear from you again and that all were well, especially dear father, I am somewhat surprised to find you in your present location & fear by that change the great object set forth in my other letter will be defeated. My kind regards to Dear Father your dear wife & all friends {Forever the same} E. B. Bateman

STOCKTON
FEB 24
Cal.

PAID

Paid

Prof.
Newton Bateman
Jacksonville
Illinois

Head Quarters Santa Fe N.M.
October 15th 1847

John C. Riggin Esq.

Dear & Respected friend although my time is exclusively taken up attending to the duties assigned me by virtue of my office still amidst confusion & noise I embrace a few moments to write you a brief sketch of matters & things as they exist in this Territory. I suppose you are aware that We left Fort Leavenworth the 15 day of July & arrived here the 19 day of September & after a long march of 66 days through a desert uninhabited save those hostile bands of Savages who frequent this Road for the purpose of plundering & murdering those who are so unfortunate as to fall in their cruel hands after we crossed the Arkansas we considered ourselves out of the Indian Country and in the Territory of Texas. the North River is the boundry. We were somewhat amused when we came in sight of La Vegas which is the first Town in New Mexico at least on Route to Santa Fe their houses are built of mud 7½ feet high Roofs perfectly flat covered with the same materials at some distance we could not tell whether it was a Town or not it looked more like a Brick Yard than any thing else We marched through in Ranks the inhabitants got upon the house tops & in the Streets to witness the procession I expect me made but a poor show after comeing out of

FREE

John C Riggin Esq.
Madison County
Troy Post office
Illinois

THE WESTERN MAILS

ON THE ROAD TO WAR

"Head Quarters Santa Fe N.M./Octob 15 1847"

"John .Riggin,Esq, ...I suppose you are aware that we left Fort Leavenworth the 15 day of July & arrived here the 19 day of September & after a long march of 66 days through a desert inhabited [by] those hostile bands of scavages who frequent this Road for the purpose of plundering & murdering those who are so unfortunate as to fall in there cruel hands - After we crossed the Arkansas [river] we considred our selves out of the Indian Country and in the Territory of Texas.The River North is the boundary - We were somewhat anused when we came in sight of Las Vages which is the first Town in New Mexico atleast on Route to Santa Fe - There houses are built of mud 7½ feet high - Roofs perfectly flat covered with the same materials - At some distance we could not tell whether it was a Town or not - it looked more like a Brick Yard than anything else - We marched throug in Ranks - The inhabertants got upon the house tops & in the Streets to witness the procession - I expect we made but a poor show after comeing out of the Desert - I immagine that we answered Jack Falstaff description of soldiers better than anything Else - Fandangos [dance] are all the go in this Country - They made one that night at Vages - I had permission to go & take 8 from our Company along with me - I can assure you we were highly pleased at the exebition that night - They are the greatest dancers in the world - There favourite dance is what they call Coone - it is a kind of Waltzing - we left after remaining there about 2 hours highly gratified at the performece - population of Vages [Las Vegas] between 5 & 6 hundred - We passed through some other Towns of Some Note for Instance Tecolote San Miguel [and] Gusana - San Miguel is considerable of a place - A great trade is carried on between that place & Santa Fe. We were grumbling all the time because we had no wood - now we have to much - we are among the mountains - the hills & mountains are entirely dotted over with cedar & pine trees - The Road seems impassibl all around us but by following the Serpentine course of the road we got along much better than we expected - Dear Sir I will now inform you that we have marching orders to El Paso which is 320 miles from here South - we will leave for here in a Short time Just as soon as the Quartermaster Can furnish Team & Rations - I think he will have no difficulty in that - There is abundance here of everything - Train after train has arrived here with a great quantity of Provision - U S [Uncle Sam ?] has no Idia that the war will last for Sometime yet - It will continue yet for some time no doubt - I will now inform you that Santa Fe is considerable of a place - the Town is about 8 miles in circumferance - houses built of mud - The main Plaza is in the center of the city about 300 feet square - there is 3 Catholick Churchs & the Relic's of 3 or 4 more old delapitated Churches that were one [once] venerable Edefices but now the cankering worm of time has deminished their beauty very much.Lieut.Col Boyakin of Marion County who is now at Toas 75 miles North of this place in command of 3 companys of Mounted Mo [Missouri] Volls has been recalled back - he will take command of this post in absance of Col Newby .....his highness Col E W B Newby * is very unpopular with his Reg. - five Companys of our Regt will go with Newby & Lieut Col Easton with his Battalion from Mo.will go along - a part of Col.Ralls Regt has already gone to El Paso - I have to conclude for want of room - I hope that a kind Providence will Bless you in all your efforts.....Thos McDowell"

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* McDowell gives a good description of Santa Fe and other towns along the way to the war in Mexico.and of special interest is the comment that Col.Newby, who is in command ,is very unpopular". See Snyder Letter for Col.Newby's expedition to the Navaho country in this collection.

Camp near Old Fort Mann
Arkansas River Sept 3d/50

SANTA FE TRAIL 1850

"Camp near Old Fort Mann Arkansas River
Sept 3d 1850"

Dearest Mother We did not march but 100 miles above the Crossing before we met Col Sumner [Edwin Vose] coming down, and we all faced about and have been camping along the River, until now we are encamped twenty miles below the Crossing[of the Arkansas River]. An express mail from Leavenworth reached us to-day. Our provision train which left there about the 1st of August will be up to us in a few days and then if I get no letters from home I shall believe I am forgotten. The express mail brought me one letter from home..... The new post will be located near here. The tools etc for building it are coming, and the company of the 6th Inf'y which is to build it is now under my command. Its Captain , Brevt Lt Col Hoffman[William], will not be here yet awhile and possibly I may be left behind with the company until he relievs me. But I hope not. On the contrary I hope to go in with Col Sumner and our Battery, which will start back by the 20th of this month. This letter will be carried by a train of empty wagons now passing from Santa Fe. Our expedition is pretty much of a failure, as all the Indians hostile to the Americans, except the Comanches, have gone up into the mountains. So we have had no fighting to do. To day Col S[umner] held a council with some of the Chiefs of two tribes, which was an imposing farce & humbug in both sides. The train which came from Santa Fe to-day brought the news that the Comanches had carried off 82 American mules on the Santa Fe road, belonging to Dr Connelly's [Henry, Gov. N. Mexico Terr.] near Cedar Creek. We have been trying but without success to bring this tribe to council....."
The balance of is on personal matters. signed/"Aland"

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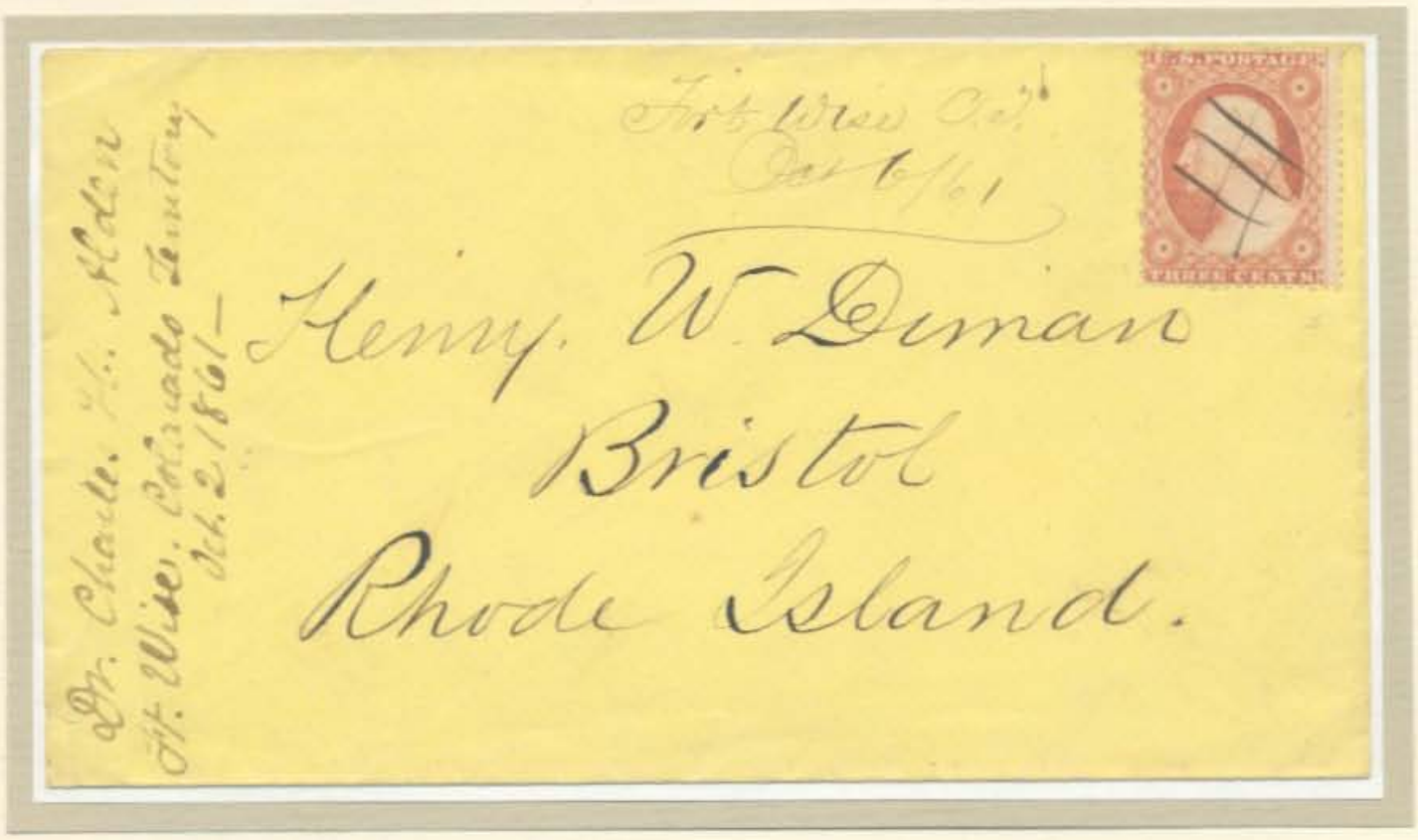
The writer may have been a non-commissioned officer - sargent?

FORT MANN was in April 1847, in what was then unorganized territory, known as the "Indian country". Located on the Arkansas, about eight miles west of Dodge City, Kansas; twenty five miles east of the Cimarron Crossing of the Arkansas River. It was abandoned in 1850 and replaced by Fort Atkinson, about two miles west of Dodge City, as related to in the letter. Built by the 6th Infantry under Captain William Hoffman, who became a major 1851, Lt. Col. 1860, Brig. Genl. 1865, died Aug. 12, 1884. Letter was carried by an Army wagon train to INDEPENDENCE MO SEP 26, as per postmark and rated "10" cents in red ink.



Fort Wise C.T.
Oct 6/61

COVER above bears the earliest postmark of FORT WISE.

COVER below bears the earliest postmark of the type I handstamp of FORT LYON.

FORT WISE,C.T.Post Office was established on Sept. 5,1860 while in Kansas Territory.It's name was changed to FORT LYON on Aug.2,1862. The fort was built in 1860 and first named Fort Fauntleroy and then changed to Fort Wise. It was located next to Bent's New Fort on the north bank of the Arkansas River on the Santa Fe Trail.FORT LYON (No.I) was abandoned on June 9,1867 because of river floods.It was relocated,by the present FORT LYON (No.2) about half way between Ft.Lyon No.I and La Junta near the present town of Las Animas. SEE MAP ABOVE FOR LOCATIONS).The Post Office was discontinued Dec.26,1889 and the military turned the fort over to the Dept. of Interior on Jan.20,1890.Today it is a U.S. Veterans Hospital. It was at Fort Lyon that the celebrated Kit Carson died on May 23, 1868.

MAP above shows the location of the forts on a portion of the Santa Fe Trail. The Arkansas River is outlined in blue.

SANTA FE TRAIL

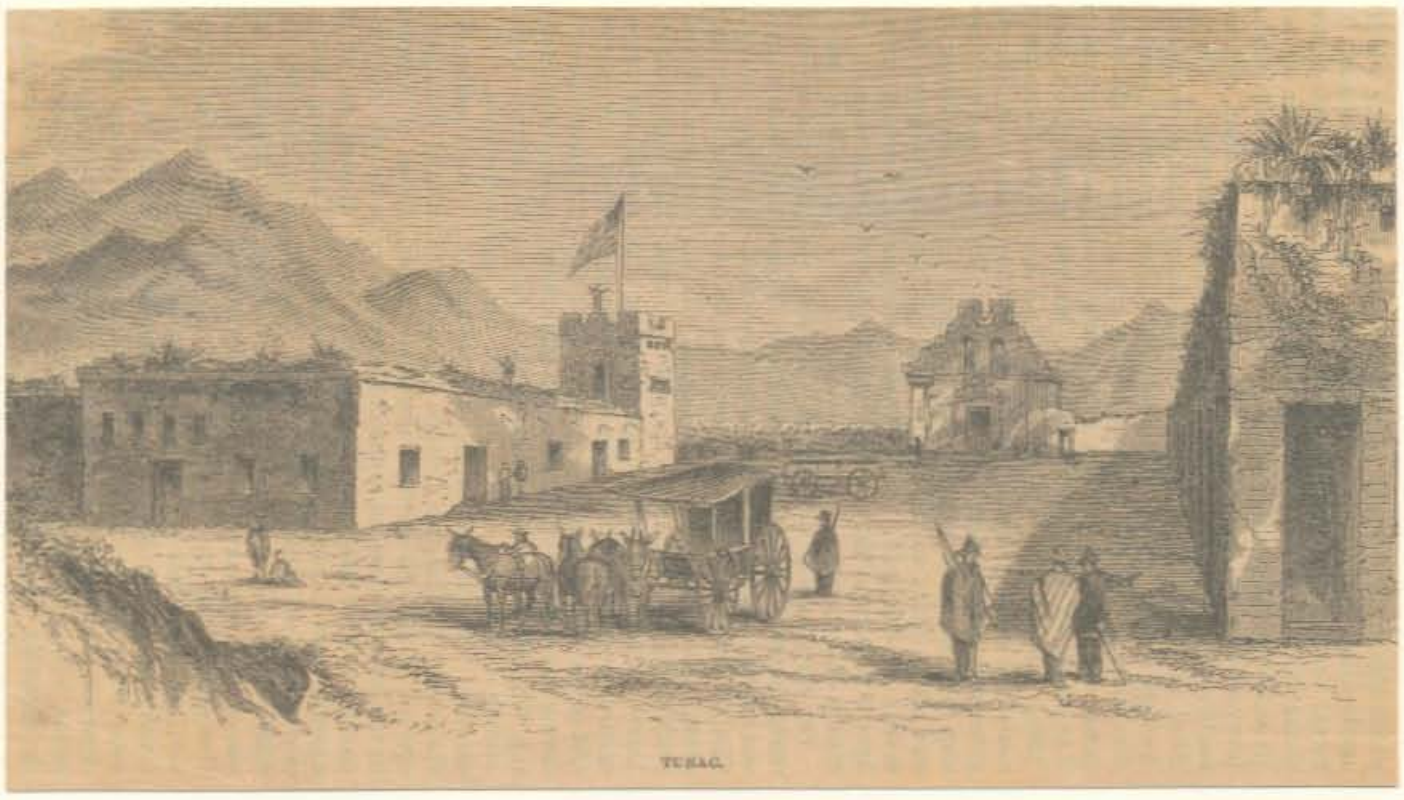
FORT ZARAH, KANSAS. The Fort was established September 6,1864. Located east of Walnut Creek, about three miles from its confluence with the Arkansas River, three miles east of the town of Great Bend, on the Santa Fe Trail. Mostly used to guard the trail, provinding military escorts both east and west. Named for Maj. Henry Zarah Curtis, who was killed in Quantrell's Baxter Springs massacre on October 5,1863. The post was abandoned by the military on December 4,1869.

POST OFFICE was established in Marion County as KIOWA on April 8, 1864. Name was changed to FORT ZARAH April 28,1865 and discontinued July 6,1871. Site is now in Barton County. Cover shown is one of two known - August 2,1865.

CIMARRON, KANSAS. Post Office was established in Foote County on March 28,1878 and later to Gray County, Kansas. Located on the Arkansas River, about sixteen miles west northwest of Dodge city, on the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail. Cover shown was used on April 6,1885.

TUBAC, ARIZONE TERRITORY.

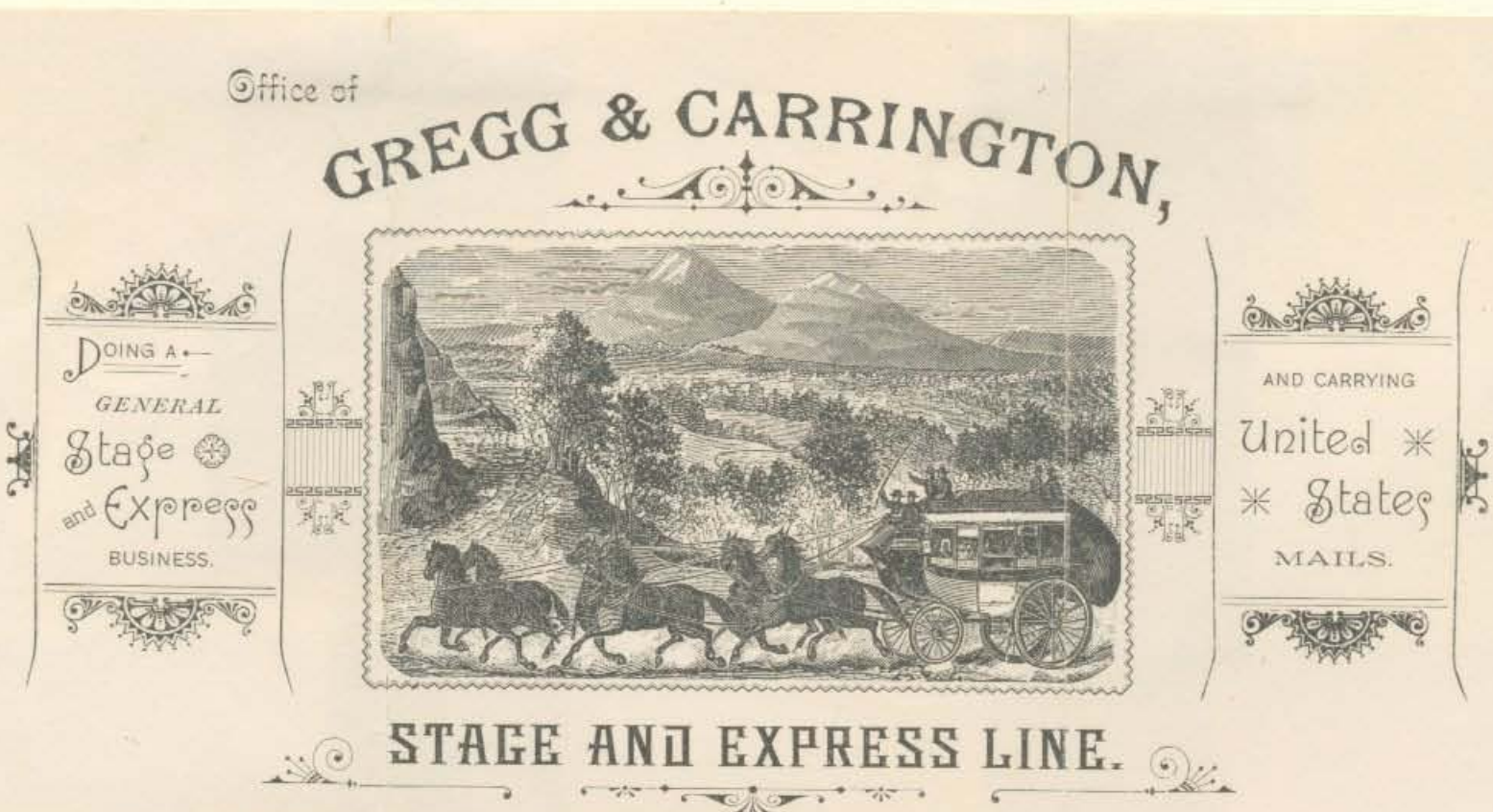
TUBAC A.T.Dec 9. The post office was established on February 21,1859, while in Doña Ana County, New Mexico Territory. It became part of the Arizona Territory on February 24,1863. Tubac was an Indian village and was first garrisoned by the Spanish in 1752. The flags of four nations - Spain - Mexico - Confederate States and the United States - have flown over Tubac. Cover shown was routed "via Santa Fe" about 1863-65. The sketch of Tubac was made by J.Ross Browne in 1864.



MOUNTAIN ROUTE SANTA FE TRAIL

WILLOW SPRINGS, NEW MEXICO TERRITORY. Post Office was established in 1877 and discontinued in 1879. it was located near the town of Raton, on the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail. Cover shown bears the only handstamp postmark and is the earliest of only two known - March 16, 1878.

CIMARRON, NEW MEXICO. Post Office was established in 1861. Located about 38 miles south southwest of Raton, on the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail in Colfax County. Cover shown was postmarked on October 12, 1879 and is the latest of Type V of only two known.



LAKE VALLEY, HILLSBORO & KINGSTON
STAGE & EXPRESS COMPANY

This was a small feeder line connecting Kingston with the railroad at Lake Valley, New Mexico. Cover postmarked at KINGSTON Jan.8, 1888 and backstamped MORA, N.MEX. JAN 11 1888. See map for route marked off in red.

" Camp seven miles above Bent's Fort
On Arkansas River July 12th 1860

Sir - I have the honor to make the following report of a scout made by a detachment of 20 U.S.Cavalry under my command in compliance with instructions from the major commanding on the morning of 11th inst. The detachment formed from the column at a moments notice, marched directly north from Bent's Fort in the direction in which the Kiowa War-Chief "Sotanke" was reported to have just fled with his family - in all two lodges. I soon found the trail and commenced a rapid pursuit. In a short time I came in sight of them several miles ahead just as they having abandoned their lodge-poles and other weighty articles, were prepared for more rapid flight. I saw that my pursuit to be successful must be rapid,and followed at full gallop. I gained very perceptibly on them, and after 2 1/2 hours from Bent's Fort during which I had traversed 26 miles, I was just about overhauling the body of Indians when I recognised Capt Steel's Detachment who were returning to Bent's Fort from a two-days scout, and were approaching me, directly in front of the Indians. Perceiving that my capture of the main body would be thus anticipated by the unexpected presence of Capt Steeles detachment, I turned to the right in order to catch some scattered warriors who having separated from the main body were likely to escape in that direction. I had not proceeded far however till I saw that part of Capt Steele's command having mistaken my Detachment for Kiowas were coming after us at a charge, to avoid this I had already had several (bugle) calls sounded but they were not heard. They recognized us on nearer approach, and coming up the two clumns saluted each other with a shout and joined in pursuit of the common foe.
My horses though much jaded by the hard run did well,and the last warrior killed was mortally wounded by Sergt Occleston of my Detachment, who after both he & the Indian had left their horses exhausted, kept up the chase on foot. Two warriors were killed and one Squaw taken prisoner,in this pursuit two squaws mounted on the fleetest ponies escaped.
Pvts Jno.Smith (1st)Co"G" and Ferdinand Schwartz Co F 1st Cavy of my Detachment received sever but not dangerous wounds.
Finding further pursuit fruitless and that Lt Bayard had received a sever arrow wound in the face, I rallied the men in advance and conducted him safely back a distance of six miles to Capt Steele's camp, as he belonged to that Detachment, though not of my command. I deem it proper to add my testimony to the gallant bearing and personal daring he displayed.
Sergt Wm Occleston Co "G" and Corp'l Geo S.Newman Co K 1st Cavalry deserve special commendation for their gallantry and good conduct throughout. Every man in my detachment proved himself every inch a soldier. The sixteen women & chilren,and 20 or 30 ponies captured by Capt Steele's detachment would have been in veritably captured by my party. I have since learned that Sotanke was not with this band at the time but that the two warriors killed were his brother & son, and the Squaws were his.
As I joined Capt Steele at Blackwater the remainder of my scout is embraced in his report. I reached this camp at 8 P.M. without the loss of a man or a horse."
Most respectfully,your obbsvt/ J.E.B.Stuart/1st Lt.1st.Cav./Comdg
To Lt J.A.Thompson/Adt of/Maj Sedgwick's column."

****

Heitman reports this engagement in his Historical Register & Dictionary of the U.S. Army,Vol.2 as :"July 11 Blackwater Springs,near Bent's Ford,Nebr.Detachs F,G,H & K, 1 cav;detachs C & K, 2 dragoons". Obviously it should be Bent's Fort,Kansas Territory. Kansas didnot become a state until January 29th 1861 and Colorado February 28, 1861.

Camp seven miles above Bents Fort
On Arkansas River July 12th 1860

Sir

I have the honor to make the following report of a scout made by a detachment of 20 U.S. Cavalry under my command in compliance with instructions from the major commanding on the morning of 11th inst. The detachment formed from the Column at a moments notice, marched directly north from Bents Fort in the direction in which the Kiowa War-Chief "Iotanke" was reported to
all two lodges
a rapid pursuit.
several miles ahe
lodge-poles and othe
for more rapid flig
must be rapid, an
very perceptibly o
during which I ba
overhauling the bod
Steele's Detachment
a two-days scout,

lles
remainder
the loss of a man

Two wounded
in this hurri
escaped.
Att Pro: Smith (1st Co
of my detachment a
wounds.
Finding further pursuit
had received a severe wound

Respectfully
Your obt Svt
J. E. B. Stuart
2d Lt. 1st Cav.
Comdg Detachment.

Fort Riley K. T.
April 22d 1860

My Genl J. S. Jesup
Q. M. Genl. U.S.A

General.

Having un=derstood that Lieut J. E. B. Stuart of the 1st Cavalry, was an applicant for an appointment in your Dept. I trust that you will not think me presumptious in recommending him to your favorable notice.

Lt Stuart has served five years in the 1st Cavalry, the Regiment to which I belong and most of the time at the same post with me. For several Months he has performed the duties appertaining to the Quarter-Master, and Commissary Dep=artments, under my immediate Com=mand, and I have always found

Fort Lyon
August 16th 1864

Annie;

We arrived here this morning in safety, having passed through the worse part of the Indian Country, though we hear of their depredations all around this post. They have been murdering many people and stealing a great deal of property. We had an escort of soldiers nearly all the way, and will not leave this place until another escort is ready to go with us as far as Red River. This Fort is 227 miles up the Arkansas river from Fort Larned - from which place I wrote to William - and is 330 miles from Santa Fe - and 40 miles down the river from Fort Bent. The trip so far has been pleasant, though rather monotonous. We have travelled up the Arkansas river 270 miles, and go 40 more before crossing and leaving it. I think we will have to remain here two days, waiting on the soldiers. The Indian difficulties have disturbed everything out here, so that communication with the States is almost entirely cut off.

J. E. B. Stuart

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF
GENERAL JAMES EWELL BROWN STUART

Recognized in both the South and the North as the greatest cavalry leader in the War Between the States.

1833—Born February 6, in Patrick County, Virginia.

1848—Attended Emory & Henry College for two years.

1854—Graduated from U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

1855—Married Miss Flora Cooke. Served in U. S. Cavalry.

1859—Accompanied Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee to Harper's Ferry in the seizure of John Brown.

1861—Resigned from U. S. Army to serve with Virginia troops. Rose rapidly to Brigadier-General of Cavalry.

1862—Made spectacular raid around McClellan's army.—Fought in all Eastern major engagements. Promoted to Major-General.

1863—Became Lee's "eyes and ears." Prominent in Chancellorsville and Gettysburg campaigns.

1864—Protected Lee's flanks in the attacks by Grant. Fought Sheridan against great odds at Yellow Tavern, Va., and was wounded there, May 11. Died the next day. Buried in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Va. An equestrian statue was erected in that city in 1907, to the memory of the fighting cavalier "Jeb" Stuart.

THE WESTERN MAILS

Fort Lyon
August 16th 1864

Annie;

We arrived here this morning in safety, having passed through the worse part of the Indian country, though we hear of their depredations all around this post. They have been murdering many people and stealing a great deal of property. We had an escort of soldiers nearly all the way, and will not leave this place until another escort is ready to go with us as far as Red River. This Fort is 227 miles up the Arkansas river from Fort Larned - from which place I wrote to William - and is 330 miles from Santa Fe - and 40 miles down the river from Fort Bent. The trip so far has been pleasant, though rather motonous. We have travelled up the Arkansas river 270 miles, and go 40 more before crossing and leaving it. I think we will have to remain here two days, waiting on the soldiers. The Indian difficulties have disturbed everything out here,so that communication with the States is almost entirely cut off. I am in hopes I will receive a letter from you by the next mail and by every other mail while in Santa Fe.I am anxious to hear how Nelly's cough is getting, and how the baby is. I am also in hopes that you will succeed in getting comfortably located in Augusta before my return.

Up to this time I have not met a soul I ever saw before - all strangers; but all clever people.From Fort Larned here we camped out and cooked our own grub - it reminded me forcibly of my California trip. I will write to you again from Santa Fe, perhaps from Fort Union- If you have any news from Howard Co. let me know it. Let me know how Mother and the other folks are getting along.

Yours & in haste- J.F.S.

THE WESTERN MAILS

ATTACK ON THE AMBULANCE.

Bents Fort,C.T.
Friday, August 19th 1864

I have been on the road two weeks today and am yet 315 miles from Santa Fe. We are traveling very slowly, having to wait on escorts, which we procure with difficulty, as there are but few soldiers in this region. We reached here last evening and will perhaps get off in the morning.

The Indian difficulties are getting worse and worse. Just now a small squad of soldiers got here from Denver City, on their way to Fort Lyon. When about fifty miles from here they found an ambulance and wagon, and three dead men, murdered by the Indians. The party consisting of a blacksmith by the name of John Snyder and wife, and two soldiers, with a four-mule ambulance, and a six-mule government wagon were coming down here on their way to Fort Lyon when they were surprised by about forty Indians. The men were killed and the woman carried off. Several arrows were still sticking in the dead bodies and a long lance (such as is now in our museum) lying by, which the soldiers now have with them. These murders are becoming of daily occurence, and the whole country is terror-stricken.

Our trip, though slow, so far has been rather pleasant. There are five passengers besides myself in the stage; we have plenty to eat and get along very well. Two days travel more will take us to Red River, and then we are out of the Indian troubles in a safe country. The bushwhackers have been very bold in this region this summer. Their leader was recently captured and is now in jail at Denver. His name is Jim Reynolds - son of old Tom Reynolds,and was raised in Belleville, and whom I knew well years ago. He will be shot. Two brothers of his are still with the guerrillas.

We cross the Arkansas river here and leave it. There is a very nice family,from Cass Co, keeping the eating department of this Fort, and they set an excellent table. There are no soldiers here - only a stage station, being the junction of the Kansas City and Denver mail lines. J.F.S.

Bents' Fort, C. T.
Friday, August 19th 1864

Annie;

I have been on the road two weeks today and am yet 315 miles from Santa Fe. We are traveling very slowly, having to wait on escorts, which we procure with difficulty, as there are but few soldiers in this region.
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LITTLE RAVEN AND WILLIAM BENT AT FORT DODGE—1869
Arapaho Chief Little Raven, his daughter, Colonel William Bent, and Raven's two sons. The Indian on the far right is probably the one who led the war party along the Arkansas during the summer of 1864 when the Snyder group was massacred and Mrs. Snyder taken prisoner.

Courtesy The Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology

In 1864 the plains tribes waged war on the Central Overland and the Santa Fe routes. The incident that Snyder writes about was only one of a great many which led to the Sand Creek Massacre on November 29,1864. Mrs. Snyder was taken captive by the Indians under the Arapaho Chief Little Raven. Before she could be recoverd from the Indians she managed to hang herself. John Reynolds and four members of his gang were brutally murdered,while enroute to Fort Lyon for trial,by their guards. The soldiers claimed that the prisoners tried to escape but after they were shot their bodied were left, with the shackles on their legs, unburied on the plains. This letter adds further proof that the old fort was still standing and serving as a stage station in 1864.

Col. C. Carson
New Mexico
Dr. Snyder

July. 20th 1864

— This will fellow Citizens
D. F. Snyder
upon
business resor — And with some idea
I think of making it his permanent
home. Dr Snyder is a highly
esteemed and clever gentleman,
and any favor that you may
be able to show him will be
thankfully received & reciprocated
&c &c. — Our relatives are all well
so far as I know. Dr. J. will give
all local news. I think I shall be
in New Mexico this fall. Love to
you & family.

As Ever
Yours Truly
Geo H. Carson

PARISH CHURCH, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, 1846

I feel better than I have felt for a long time, and believe in point of health this country would suit me well, but I cant see anything else about it so far that does suit me at all. We have not heard a word of news since leaving the States, and I presume it will be a week or ten days before we do hear anything as to what is going on in the civilized world.

I shall expect to hear from you by every mail that comes so long as I stay here —

Regards to all

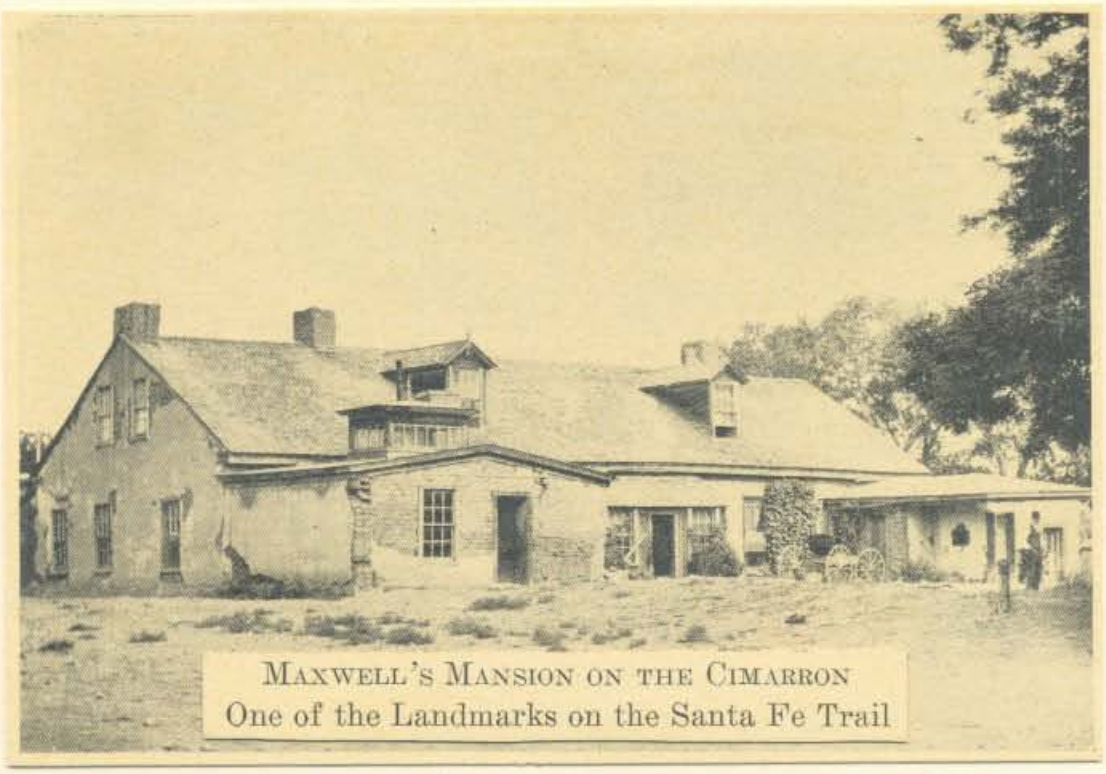
J. F. S.

Maxwell's Ranche N. M.
August 24th 1864

Annie;

We are now out of all danger and in 150 miles of Santa Fe: we will get to Fort Union tomorrow and to Santa Fe on Saturday night. Our trip has been exceedingly slow, but owing to the general breaking up of the stations on the road, and waiting on escorts we could travel no faster. We have traveled no night excepting the first two out from Kansas City; and I have had a fine opportunity to see all the country we have come over.

At this place - the crossing of the Cimerron - there is quite a settlement, principally Mexicans, with a large mill, carding machine &c, all belonging to Mr Lucien B. Maxwell, formerly of Kaskaskia Illinois.



MAXWELL'S MANSION ON THE CIMARRON
One of the Landmarks on the Santa Fe Trail

MAXWELL'S RANCH
SANTA FE TRAIL

Maxwell's Ranche N.M.
August 24th 1864

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We are now out of all danger and in 150 miles of Santa Fe : we will get to Fort Union tomorrow and to Santa Fe on Saturday night. Our trip has been exceedingly slow, but oweing to the general breaking up of the stations on the road, and waiting on escorts we could travel no faster. We have traveled no night excepting the first two out from Kansas City, and I have had a fine opportunity to see all the country we have come over.

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J.F.S.

THE WESTERN MAILS

INDIAN TERROR ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL

"The Red Skins have broke out again killing & steeling"

The letter shown on the opposite page was written by Lweis Barnum the brother of Thomas J. Barnum, one of the partners in the Barlow and Sanderson Company. He was the first postmaster at Bents Fort and his wife Emma was the great-grand-daughter of Daniel Boone. Lewis Barnum died from pneumonia, at Sangre de Cristo Pass, on January 13,1876 in his forty-sixth year. The following letter relates the continuing Indian problems of the Colorado and Kansas frontier in the late 1860s.

Bents Fort August 17.68

.....Emma has been here this week & so have I & will stay until Tom gets here. he has been down to Kansas City after some mules. 40, he is within one hundred miles of here now. if the Indians have not got him. The Red Skins have broke out again killing & steeling all they come across. Tom is coming with ox train. Much the safest. I am shure he will be very cautious as he understands them quite well. at least he ought to as this is the 3rd Indian war we have been through. We have not seen any as yet at this place & in hopes we will not . I for one have not lost any Indians & am quite shure shall not hunt for any. The nearest they have been to us here is 35 miles - reported they were quite a band of them come into new Bents fort - drove off 21 mules & horses & killed 2 men, down on the borders Kansas they made there first rade - killed 12 families men wimin & children. Captured 2 young ladys ravished them to death. by what I can judge they have killed not less than 50 people & only broke out two weeks ago. Report sayes Kansas is red hot raising up companey & going for them devles. You have but little Idear how the People in this western countres suffer by the Indian lovers. if thar wer not so much money in the Indian beureau the poor Indians would not have quite so many friends, Government send out ther commistoners to make treatys. Never have they made one but what the Indians have got at least $10,000 for every white person they have killed. I would like to have Mr Indian get after them & see how they like it - No use of my jawing about it for it will not help the matter one bit. I have no particular news we are running (stages) daily & have been since July 1 - R R (railroad) is within 145 miles of this place, Emma & baby are quite well..... Lew Barnum

Cover postmarked "BENT'S FORT COL AUG 28" (1868). See opposite page.

Ft Leavenworth
August 17, 68

Dear Bro & Sister

I owe an apology for not answering your long time ago. But I have not seen time since I rec'd it until

for the first
longest I
until the
Emma
when I
train will
stay as I
on the
her in two weeks. I thought I could,
but instead of two weeks it was ten weeks
so you can judge whether I have
a good Emma has been here this week
& so have I, & will stay until
Tom gets here, he has been down to Kansas
City after some mules &c, he is within

BENT'S OLD FORT ON THE ARKANSAS

BENT'S OLD FORT was the greatest fur trading post west of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. It was built by Charles and William Bent and Ceran St.Vrain between 1828 and 1833, being constructed of adobe bricks with walls four feet thick, fifteen feet high, and with two thirty foot round towers.

"Here with rare tact and courage, Colonel Bent and St.Vrain controlled a vast and savage empire. A watch tower with cannon and constant guards, a billard room, a bar where frosty mint juleps were served guests, a horse-corral surmounted by growing cactus, two captive eagles, and a herd of cattle were to linger in the minds of the weary traveler who stopped off on his way to Santa Fe." (Quoted from The Shining Mountains,Denver Public Library,1935).

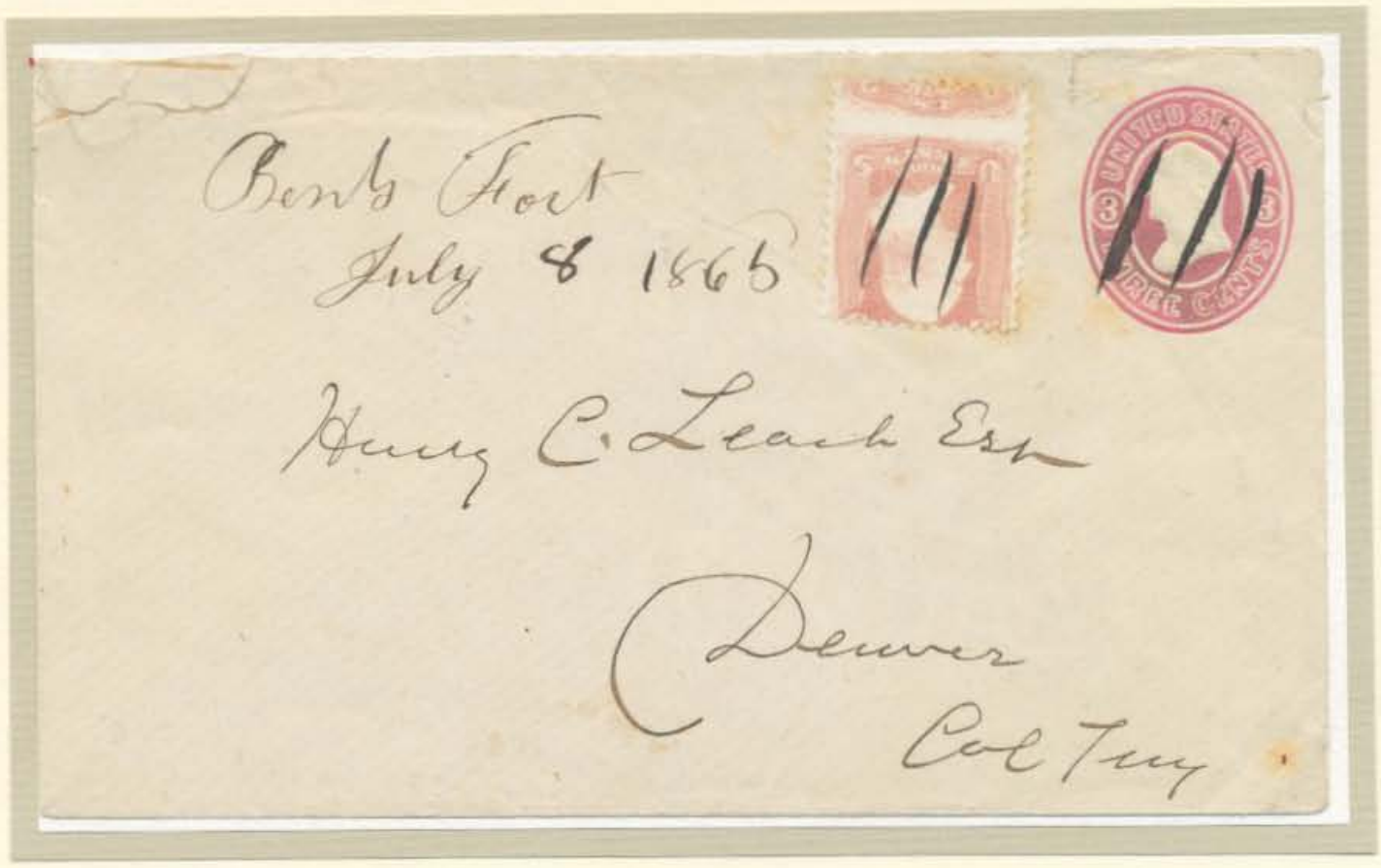
Located on the mountain route of the Santa Fe Trail, in southeastern Colorado on the Arkansas river,near the present town of LaJunta. This huge castle-like fort was a stronghold of the Santa FE and Indian trade as well as the only visible source of American strength in the southwest where three lusty young nations, Texas, Mexico and the United States were moving toward an inevitable struggle for power.Before the Mexican war the Arkansas river was the International border with Mexico.

Here William Bent kept the plains tribes in a semblance of peace and acted as host to Stephen W. Kearny's Army of the West, which stopped off on its march to the conquest of New Mexico and California in 1846. John C. Fremont passed by in 1848 on his disatrous expedition into the Sangre de Cristo mountains and the high San Juans. This historic fort served as a home, work shop, and a haven of rest to the fur trader, explorer, Indian, soldier, and emigrant. Through its huge gate passed many of the great names of the west; Kit Carson,Old Bill Williams,Thomas Fitzpatrick, "Uncle Dick"Wooton, Jim Beckwourth, Louis Vasquez, Lucien Maxwell, Thomas Boggs, the Sublettes and others too numerous to mention. The resident manager was William Bent while his brother Charles and St.Vrain operated out of Taos and Santa Fe. Charles Bent became the first American governor of New Mexico and was assassinated by the Pueblo Indians and some Mexicans at his home in Taos on January 19,1847.

Popular history has Bent destroying the fort after he was unable to sell it to the government. Dr.George Bird Grinnell, in his Bent's Old Fort and its Builders, Kansas State Historical Society,1919-1922,Vol.XV,stated that in 1852 Colonel Bent destroyed the fort which had been completed twenty years before. That Bent had "loaded all his goods upon twenty large wagons, each drawn by six yoke of oxen, and moved down the river to Short Timber creek, five miles below the fort, where he camped for the night. The next morning Bent rode up river alone and set fire to the fort. Those who were with the wagons heard the report of the distant explosion as the powder magazine blew up." This was told to Dr.Grinnell by George Bent, the half-breed son of William Bent, who as a boy was with the wagons at the time. However, George Bent was an old man when he made that statement and was relying only on his memory.

THE WESTERN MAILS

BENT'S OLD FORT



This was BENT'S OLD FORT built by Charles and William Bent and Ceran St.Vrain about 1833. It was located on the mountain branch of the Santa Fe Trail,on the Arkansas River, near present day La Junta,Colo. It was one of the greatest fur trading posts of the west. After Wm. Bent abandoned the post about 1849 it fell into disrepair until it was occupied by Barlow and Sanderson as a stage station in 1861. It was the division point for the Kansas City - Denver - Santa Fe mail lines. A POST OFFICE was established at the fort on June 4,1863 with Lewis Barnum as the first postmaster. It was discontinued December 2, 1873. The cover shown below bears the earliest of the two known manuscript postmarks - "Bents Fort July 8,1865".

THE WESTERN MAILS

The Rocky Mountain News, on January 7,1866, published a letter to the Editor from which the following extract is taken: "We left Fort Bent the morning of the 5th. That station is the headquarters, or depot, of the Kansas City and Santa Fe Stage Company. It is the diverging point of the Denver and Santa Fe branches, and consequently the most important station on their route. The old Fort has been repaired; roofs mended, and walls whitewashed. The buildings enclose the four sides of a square; the open space, or plaza, being something like two hundred feet square. Here are kept the extra coaches of the Co., stores, forage, etc. There is also a blacksmith shop for repairs. It is well prepared for defence, and has quite a supply of arms. Altogether it presents, doubtless. very much the same appearance it did twenty years ago; being constantly on a war footing."

The following is from a letter printed in the Daily Rocky Mountain News of Denver on January 9,1866: "This (Bent's old Fort) is a great rambling old frontier trading post; with tremendously thick adobe walls; bastions, and all the necessary defences against Indian assault. The stage company have made it a very complete and comfortable station."

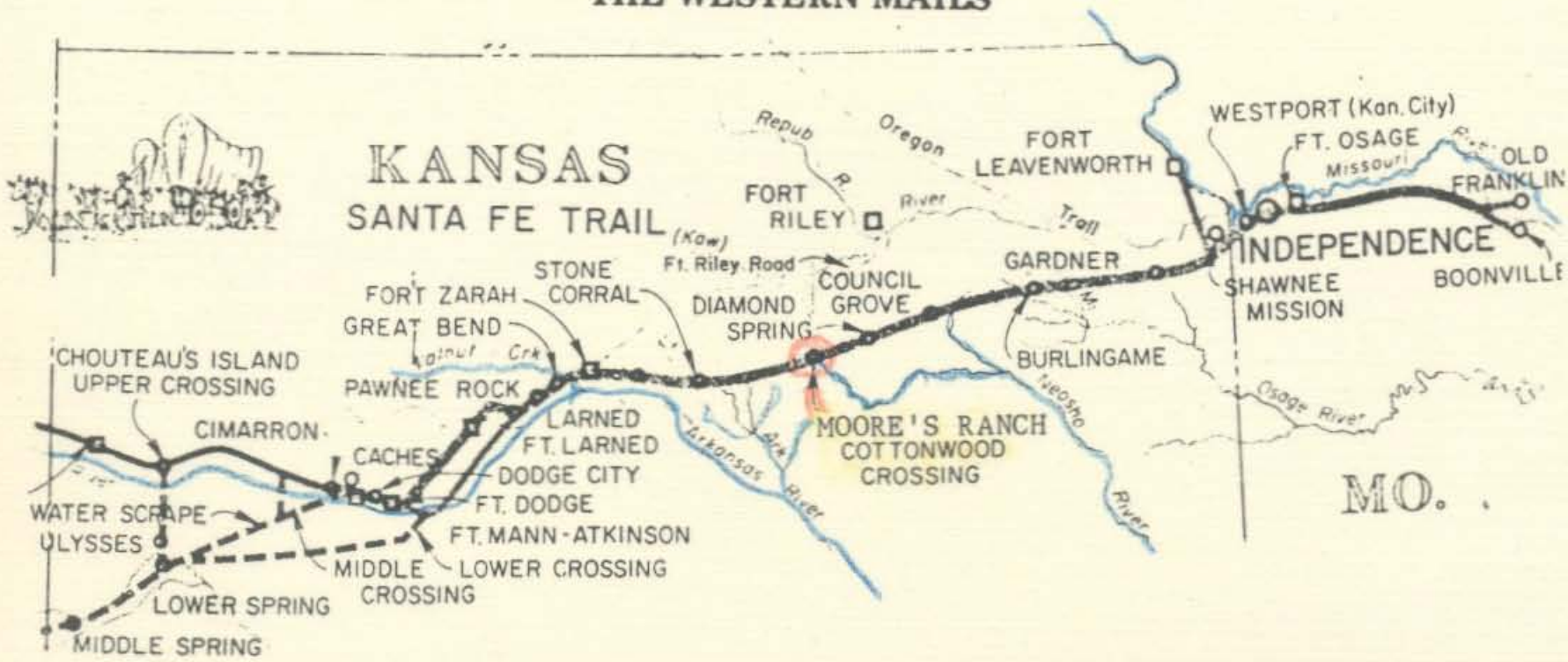
In 1954 the Colorado Historical Society made an exploratory excavation of the foundations of the fort which projected from one to three feet above ground. The results were published in the July 1956 issue of the Colorado Magazine and prove beyond a doubt that the fort was never dramatically blown up and destroyed. In the report,Mr.Charles L.Seeley who visited the fort in 1877,is quoted as follows:

> "There is one curious thing about this story of the blowing up of Bent's Fort, namely, that none of the old time cattlemen and early settlers who came in after Bent moved out ever believed it. The fort was still standing when they came, and was used for many years as a stage station until the arrival of the railroad. I have talked with a good many early settlers, and the most plausible version of the story I can get is that Bent wanted to destroy any powder remaining at the fort, whether his own or stored there by the government, to keep it out of the way of the Indians and Mexicans. It is probable that Bent set afire a fuse to touch it off and an explosion followed, but the damage was small, being confined to the four walls of the magazine.....When finally abandoned as a stage station, the elements in the form of wind and weather soon wrought havoc with the structure and it went down fast."

It is not certain just when Bent did abandon the old fort, but 1849 seems the most probable date. During the years between 1849 and 1861 the fort fell into disrepair, and parts of it may have been damaged by the Indians and the elements.

In 1861 the Barlow & Sanderson Southern Overland Mail & Express Company obtained permission from Colonel Bent to occupy the old fort as a stage station. It became the division point for the Kansas City - Santa Fe - Denver stage lines, and was a home station for Barlow & Sanderson. Colonel J.L.Sanderson said that they found it and kept it in good repair during the twenty years they used it.In 1881 Barlow & Sanderson abandoned the old fort as the stage lines were being replaced by the railroads which were building their way west. After this the fort fell into ruins, with the wind and the rain playing havoc, and the ranchers tearing down the walls to get adobe bricks to build houses, the old fort dissapeared into low mounds leaving only a trace of the original foundations.

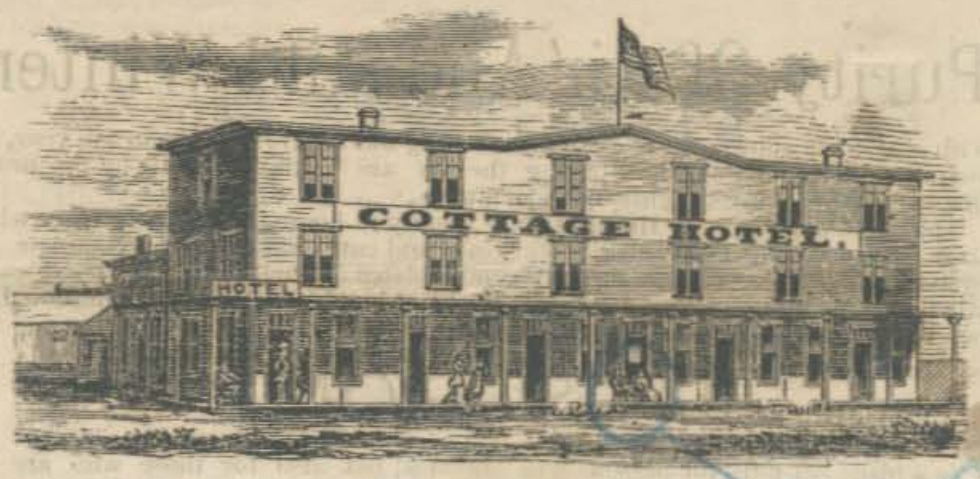
THE WESTERN MAILS



MOORE'S RANCH, K.T. ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL.

The post office was established on November 14,1860 and was discontinued November 9,1866. It was located on the headwaters of Cottonwood creek, in the northwest corner of Marion County, with Ira G. Moore as postmaster. The cover shown above was postmarked "Moores Ranch,K.T. Feb. 25" without a year date. However,the three cent stamp used was from the 1857 issue,which was demoetized by congress,in August of 1861,because of the Civil War. Therefore, the year date would have to be 1861 - about three and one half months after the establishment of the post office.

Judge Frank Doster came to the Kansas Territory, as a member of the Eleventh Indiana Cavalry in 1865, when he was eighteen years old. The following extract is taken from a paper he wrote for the Kansas State Historical Society: "At various places along the (Santa Fe) trail companies or other detachments were dropped off to do escort duty for the mail coaches and trains of merchandise wagons bound for Santa Fe and other places. Most of my company were left at Moore's ranch in the northwest corner of Marion county, where the trail crossed the headwaters of the Cottonwood."



IN CONNECTION WITH THIS

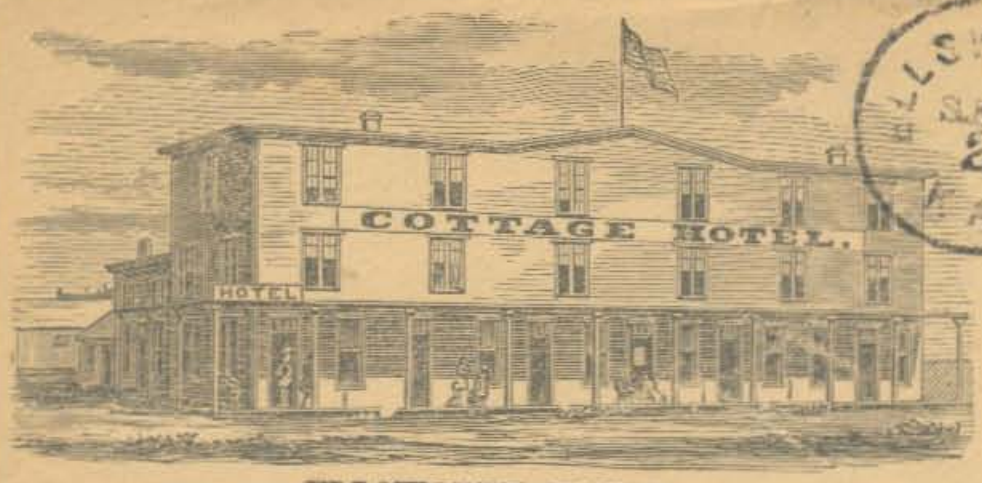
Hotel arrangements have been made to fill a long neglected but urgent demand in the cause of humanity, in alleviating and curing hundreds whose lives are sacrafced every year for want of that judgment which nature might dictate to every thinking mind, and calls aloud to

STOP THE LARGE EMIGRATION

Of Health seeking and afflicted ones from Eastern States to Colorado, whose last resort for Life and Health is a change of climate, which is good and recommendable ONLY when carried out in wisdom and in accordance with the laws of nature.

The Medical Faculty

Universally agrees that the sudden change of climate experienced by Invalids traveling from the Eastern States to the far West, is fatal to a large proportion of those whose sole aim is a prolongation of Life and Health, and hence the necessity of an Intermediate Home for the suffering and afflicted, where they can rest and be cared for until such time as they are so climatized as to enable them to proceed in safty to the Mountains of Colorado—or from restored Health in this climate, they can return to a mutual rejoicing with their loved



ELLSWORTH, KANSAS.

Mrs. Mamie Morrison
Goodville
Ohio

BENT CANYON, Colo 3-22-81. Post Office established in Las Animas County on March 28, 1872 and discontinued June 30, 1902. It was located on the Purgatorie River about 25 miles south of La Junta. The site was washed out by the river years ago. Cover backstamped at WEST LAS ANIMAS COL MAR 23 and EUREKA. ILLINOIS MAR 25 1881.

THE ENGLISH CATTLE BARONS IN COLORADO 1881

A detailed letter on the problems of running cattle on the open range in southeastern Colorado during the winter of 1880-81 and the purchase of large herds by the Duke of Argyle of Scotland. "Plum Canon 20/81.....Dear Tom...I want to go in the morning over to Bent Canon and on to Crooked Arroyo to see how things look - I think of moving over about the 29th.....when I move over will have to go right on to La Junta to get provisions. Jones & Weir have a branch store there now. Am going to make an account with them. I may go on to W.L. Animas - from there I want to see about getting some bulls. This winter has been a hard one on bulls - I dont know how many we have left - Jho Bush saw the red roan bull during the winter & said he didnt think he would make it through and he was in good fix in the fall ....We thought we would have pretty fair picking of grass by the 1st Apl - but we will not - while we have not had any hail storms this month it has been a little cold and windy - not much growing weather.....Old Martin surprised us a week ago by bringing a wife home with him - he had been up on the river [Arkansas] and to Trinidad about ten days. Married a woman between 25 and 30 yrs of age in Trinidad. originally from Banen Co Ky - seems to be a pretty good sort of a woman. The Holt Bros on Cimmaron [river] have sold their entire herd for $ 400,000 - sold to the Duke of Argyle of Scotland - Peacock has also sold to the same party for $ 100,000 - I think though some other small stocks went in with them at this price. W.T. Burns I learn has bought Charley Saton and June Roberts cattle for $ 7,000 and wants to buy $ 40,000 worth more - I dont know whose money it is - Johnny Nelson got one of his legs frozen during the winter and will have to have it amputated above the knee - this is bad for Johnny. he was running an outfit up North and in crossing the Arkansas some where he got his leg wet and from this it froze - ....if I can buy bulls on time I was thinking....."

****

The writer, Harvey Rawlings, continues on other matters. He wants his brother Tom to come out and get a school teachers job and other personal matters. Also the problem of borrowing money without going to the bank. Perhaps selling some of his herd..

THE LAST DAYS OF THE OVERLAND MAIL OVER THE SANTA FE TRAIL.

By 1880 the great days of the stagecoaches carrying the Santa Fe mails was drawing to a close. The Santa Fe Railroad was within fifteen miles of Santa Fe and on January 24,1880 Barlow and Sanderson drew off its coaches and stock. However,this was not the end.Barlow & Sanderson continued to operate as feeder lines from the railroad to the inland towns and mining camps for almost another decade.The writer is driving a buckboard between Villa Grove,Colorado,in the San Luis valley and a mining camp on the east side of the continental divide,known as Bonanza (it had a post office in 1880). The San Luis valley lies between the Sangre de Cristo mountains on the east and the continental divide on the west. The following is from the letter:

"Dear Mother It has been a long time since I wrote you - well ma I am settled at last - I am driveing buck board from Villa Grove to bonanza camp that is what they call it - it has another name I can not think of it so I call it bonanza - Newt Huchison is my division agent - I am all by myself that is the only stage running - I think [I] have what I came out here for now - I have to take care of my own team on one end of the road and have a stock tender on the other - I like it first rate so far - I do not know how long it will last that is [to] my likeing but I suppose as long as I drive well.....I like this country much better than Leadville Road - I am about eighty or ninty miles [south] from Leadville in the St Louis Valley - I suppose it is about five or six miles wide and a regular prarie but I drive up a canon [canyon] to the mining camp - tell Harly my horses names ar (Turk & King both dapple grays & Maggie & George nearly white).....direct [letters] to Villa Grove Saguache County Colorado Care of Barlow & Sanderson - I am the only Leadville boy that got to drive you see I am getting $ 80 still & if I had tended stock I would only have gotten $ 25....Love to all Lew"

****

(FORM 11.)

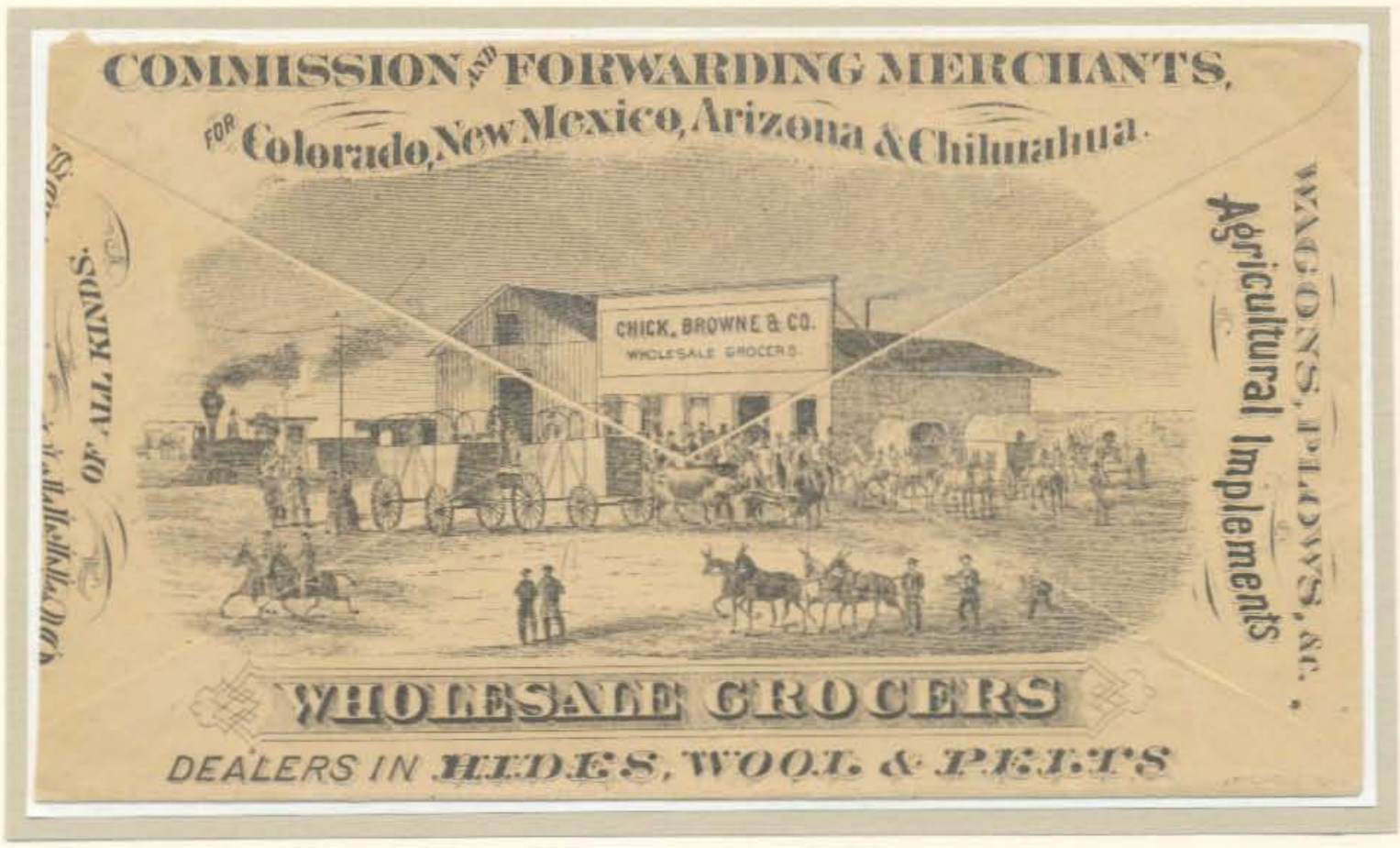
OVERLAND MAIL AND EXPRESS CO.

August the 13 188

Dear Mother

It has been a long time since I wrote to you well ma I am settled at last I am driving buck board from Villa Grove to bonanza camp that is what they call it it has another name I cannot think of it so I call it bonanza Newt Hutchison is my division agent I am all by myself that is the only stage running I think have what I came out here for now I have to take care of my own team on one end of the road and have a stock tender on the other I like it first rate so far I do not know how long it will last that is my liking but I suppose as long as I drive well Ma I got a letter from Aunt J and she said she had been to see you

WEST LOS ANIMAS,COLORADO. Corner card of PROWERS & HOUGH, April 5, 1878. Note on reverse; "I visited this site and saw the occupied remains of this store, with the grand daughter of Mr. Prowers in 1968, and Mrs. Le Roy Boyd, the wife of the late chaplin of the Fort Lyon hospital FER." Cover below postmarked "GRANADA COL AUG 21 about 1874-75.



FORT CRAIG,NEW MEXICO. The post was established April 1,1854, on the west side of the Rio Grande,about 3 miles North of San Marcial,near the upper end of the Jornada del Muerto, in Socorro County. Abandoned by the military in 1885.

POST OFFICE was established on March 22,1855 and discontinued May 26,1879. Cover above bears the Type II postmark " SEP 15", 1863. Cover below bears the manuscript PM "Ft.Craig P.O.N.M. 10/15/77" - 1877.

FORT CRAIG N.M.TERRITORY. About 1882 the "FORT" was dropped and it became **CRAIG N.M.** Cover bearing the 3¢ War Department stamp was used Oct.2,1883,about 17 months before the fort was abandoned.

MOUNTAIN ROUTE SANTA FE TRAIL

RATON, NEW MEXICO TERRITORY. The Post Office was established in 1881 in Colfax County. It is located a few miles south of the Colorado border and the Raton Pass, from which it gets its name - about half way between Bents Fort and Fort Union, on the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail. Cover above bears the Type I postmark and the cover below the Type IV postmark - May 23, 1881 and Aug 4, 1883.

SANTA FE TRAIL

LAMY, Santa Fe Co., N.MEX/SEP 23 1884. Post Office was established in 1881 and discontinued in 1963. Located about 10 miles south of the Santa Fe Trail. Cover shown bears the Type I postmark.

LOS LUNAS, NEW MEXICO/APR 30 1887. Post Office was established in 1855. Located in Valencia County on the Rio Grande River. This was the route along the Rio Grande, known as the **Jornado del Muerto** – Dead Mans March. It followed the river to El Passo and thence to Chihuahua and Mexico city - really a continuation of the SANTA FE TRAIL. Cover below bears the Type VII postmark.

FORT SELDEN, NEW MEXICO TERRITORY was established May 8, 1865. Located about one mile east of the Rio Grande River, some twelve miles north of town of Dona Ana, in Dona Ana County. The post office was established Nov. 9, 1866 and was discontinued Aug. 31, 1923. Cover above was used about 1875. Cover below has the spelling SELDON and was used in 1883.

FORT WINGATE II, NEW MEXICO TERRITORY. It was established Aug.31,1860 as FORT FAUNTLEROY and changed to FORT LYON Sept.25,1861. Occupied by Confederate troops during the Civil War. Reoccupied by Federal troops in June 1868 and renamed **FORT WINGATE** The fort was located near the north end of the Zuñi Mountains, about 15 miles S.E. of Gallup, N.M. It is now called FORT WINGATE ORDNANCE DEPOT. There was a FORT WINGATE I, located near the south end of the Zuñi range which was abandoned in 1868 and the troops transfered to No.II.
The post office was established July 15,1874. Discontinued Jan.15,1926.

FORT BAYARD,NEW MEXICO TERRITORY was established AUG.21,1871.Located about 10 miles east of Silver City,N.M.,near the base of the Santa Rita Mountains.It was abandoned by the military in January 1900. The post office was established Oct.4,1867 and is still operating.

FORT CUMMINGS,NEW MEXICO TERRITORY was established Oct.2,1863 in what was then Dona Ana County,now Luna County.It was located at Cook's Springs in the Cook's Range,about 50 miles west of the Rio Grande,on the Mesilla-Tucson road.Abandoned in 1885.
The post office was established Dec.10,1866 and discontinued on July 17,1891.

Fort Cummings, New Mexico. This photograph was taken in 1882.

Fort Carson Col. Ter.

April 15th 1872

Werthester Hr. Lemmer:

Ihr Schreiben vom 7ten d. M. habe ich erhalten, die Verspätung des B. ist der Schwierigkeit zuzuschreiben Alles ist wohlbehalten. Ich wollte ein Duplicate haben konnte aber keine bekommen. Ich werde also so bald ich Ihnen den B. am 2ten sende

Ich hoffe wieder einen Schein einbezahlen zu können. Die Lines befinden sich noch

Ich sehe daß

Ich sagen Sie

gewiß dieser B. unterwegs

schon wie alle Mißtrauen gegen uns

Kit Carson Col. Ter.
October 4th, 1870

Dear Mr. Gemmer!

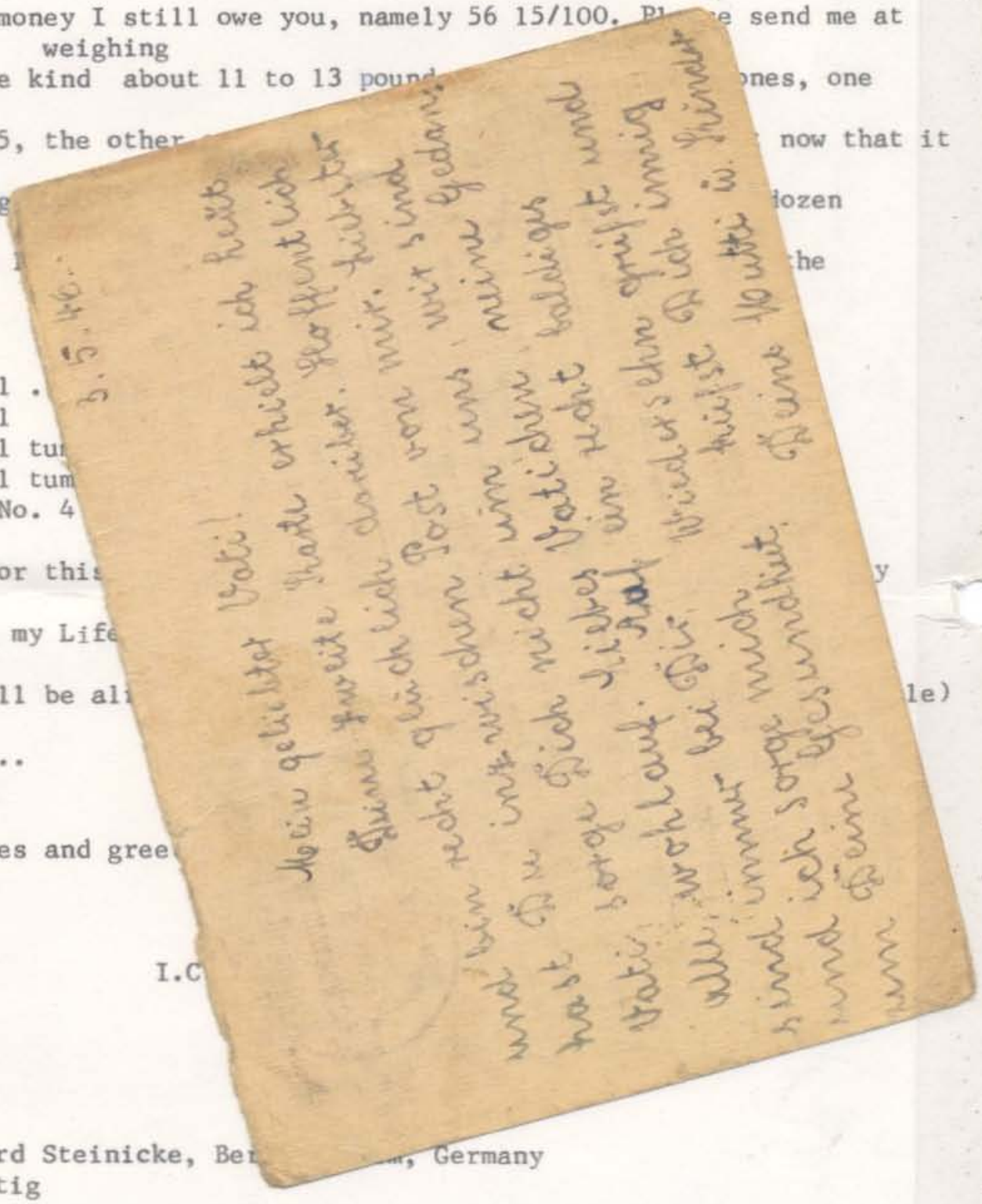
Today I was happy and sold two of your M.L. Rifles therefore I rush to you the balance of the money I still owe you, namely 56 15/100. Pl[illegible]e send me at once two of the same kind about 11 to 13 pound[illegible] weighing [illegible]ones, one for $ Doll. 13 to 15, the other [illegible] now that it is fall I still mig[illegible] dozen of this kind Emery [illegible] the finer pages

1 dozen filed steel .
1 dozen filed steel
1 dozen tured steel tu[illegible]
1 dozen tured steel tum[illegible]
2 Saks Bock Shots No. 4

I hope I can pay for this [illegible]y is now with me and my Life [illegible] then everything will be ali[illegible]le) for two half.....

With best wishes and gree[illegible]

I.C[illegible]



Translated by Erhard Steinicke, Be[illegible], Germany
Typed by Heidi Fettig